Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of Attorney General

Annual Report

For the period April 1, 1985, to
March 31, 1986

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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT

For the period April 1, 1985, to March 31, 1986

British Columbia Cataloguing in Publication Data

British Columbia. Ministry of Attorney General.
Annual report. — 1977; 1980/81–

Report year ends March 31, 1980/81–
Continues: British Columbia. Ministry of the Attorney-General. Annual report. ISSN 0704-6022
ISSN 0704-6022

1. British Columbia. Ministry of Attorney General

KEB475.A72A8 354.711065

The Honourable ROBERT GORDON ROGERS, *Lieutenant Governor of the Province of British Columbia*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General of the province for the period April 1, 1985, to March 31, 1986, is herewith respectfully submitted.

HONOURABLE BRIAN R. D. SMITH, Q.C.
Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General
November, 1986

The Honourable Brian R. D. Smith, Q.C.,
Attorney General

SIR: I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General for the period April 1, 1985, to March 31, 1986.

This is the fifth annual report to reflect a unified ministry of justice. Some of the branches, boards, and commissions reported here are required by statute to report through you annually to the legislature.

This is not a substitute for those reports. Those branches, boards, and commissions will, in the ordinary way, as is required, file an annual report.

E. N. (Ted) HUGHES, Q.C.
Deputy Attorney General

Ministry of Attorney General
Victoria, B.C.
November, 1986

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Introduction

The Attorney General

The Attorney General for British Columbia is the chief law officer of the province. He represents the government on all matters pertaining to the administration of justice in the province, including police, courts, prosecutions, corrections, and legal services to government (*Attorney General Act*, 1899).

The current Attorney General, Brian R.D. Smith, Q.C., is the 33rd Attorney General of British Columbia and is responsible for the administration of 103 statutes. (*See* Appendix.)

The Ministry of Attorney General

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$367,341,051	$344,187,821
Staff	4,492.5	4,561.0

Today's Ministry of Attorney General is a large and complex organization charged with administering a wide variety of legal, regulatory, and related educational services. Together, these services comprise the basis of the justice system in our province.

British Columbia is one of the few Canadian jurisdictions to operate a unified justice ministry where all components of the justice system report to a single minister.

Due to the size and complexity of the Ministry, the Attorney General has two deputies to assist him with overseeing day-to-day operations. Matters pertaining to the administration of justice generally and specific regulatory programs are the responsibilities of the Deputy Attorney General; matters pertaining specifically to correctional services are administered by the Commissioner of Corrections.

The Ministry of Attorney General today consists of five operational and two staff branches. A number of regulatory (governing) services also report to the Attorney General through these branches.

There are three assistant deputy attorneys general, with responsibilities for civil law, criminal law, and policy planning respectively. Each of the other branches is headed by an assistant deputy minister or, in the case of the Corrections Branch, the Commissioner of Corrections. These seven branch heads and the Deputy Attorney General constitute the Ministry's Executive Committee and, on behalf of the Attorney General, collectively exercise management responsibility for the Ministry as a whole. The Executive Committee is also responsible for making recommendations to the Attorney General on legislation and policies in the Ministry's operations and for overall planning for an integrated justice system.

The services of the Ministry fall into four major categories:

- — justice services (police; prosecutions; courts; and corrections);
- — legal services (to government);
- — planning and support services; and
- — regulatory services (film and video regulation; land titles; beneficent estate management and protection; coroners; police practices and training; horse racing; fire training, prevention, and suppression; public legal services; law reform; criminal injury compensation; review of persons mentally unfit to stand trial; and parole).

Justice Services

Police

The Police Services Branch supervises the policing of the *Criminal Code of Canada* and the offence provisions of the provincial statutes and oversees the general discharge of the role of police officers (including auxiliary and reserve) serving the province.

Prosecutions

The Criminal Justice Branch provides a variety of services relating to criminal and statute law and prosecution in the province. Crown counsel is responsible for prosecution of all criminal cases, provincial statutes, and many municipal bylaws in the trial and appellate

courts of the province and in the Supreme Court of Canada.

Courts

The Court Services Branch provides court administration, sheriff services, and reporting/recording services to all of the courts in the province, particularly to the judiciary of the Provincial, County, and Supreme Courts and the Court of Appeal.

Corrections

The Corrections Branch* is responsible for correctional centres in the province and for supervising offenders on probation. It also offers mediation and conciliation services through probation offices to persons considering court intervention in resolving their family/marital disputes.

Legal Services to Government

The Legal Services Branch serves the provincial government in matters pertaining to civil law and litigation (lawsuits), constitutional and administrative law, and legislative counsel, and provides legal counsel to all ministries of government.

Planning and Support Services

The Policy Planning and Support Services branches provide a variety of services related to the administration, policy development, and coordination of Ministry services, including financial and personnel management, data services, and facilities planning and development.

Regulatory Services

Film and Video Regulation — The Film Classification Division regulates the public exhibition of motion pictures and videos.

Land Titles — The Land Titles Office assures absolute security of titles to land and interests in land recognized by the Crown.

Beneficent Estate Management and Protection — The Public Trustee protects the estates and financial interests of minors and mentally disordered persons and settles the estates of deceased and missing persons where no other person is competent or willing to act.

Coroners — The B.C. Coroners Service attempts to determine cause and circumstances surrounding a person's death in order to prevent future loss of life in similar circumstances.

Police Practices and Training — The B.C. Police Commission* sets standards for policing and police training, assists police boards in independent municipalities, conducts research on policing matters, oversees citizen-police complaints, and serves as appeal body in citizen complaints and internal police disciplinary proceedings.

The B.C. Police Academy provides various training programs and services for police departments throughout the province.

Horse Racing — The B.C. Racing Commission governs, directs, controls, and regulates all horse racing in the province.

Fire Training, Suppression, and Prevention — The Office of the Fire Commissioner* provides a variety of services related to fire prevention, investigation, and suppression.

Public Legal Services — The Legal Services Society* provides education, advice, and information about the law to the public, as well as legal services to persons who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons.

Law Reform — The B.C. Law Reform Commission* makes recommendations for systematic development, simplification, and modernization of provincial laws.

Criminal Injury Compensation — The Criminal Injury Section* of the Workers' Compensation Board provides compensation where a person is killed or injured in British Columbia

* Produces a separate annual report as required by statute.

Introduction

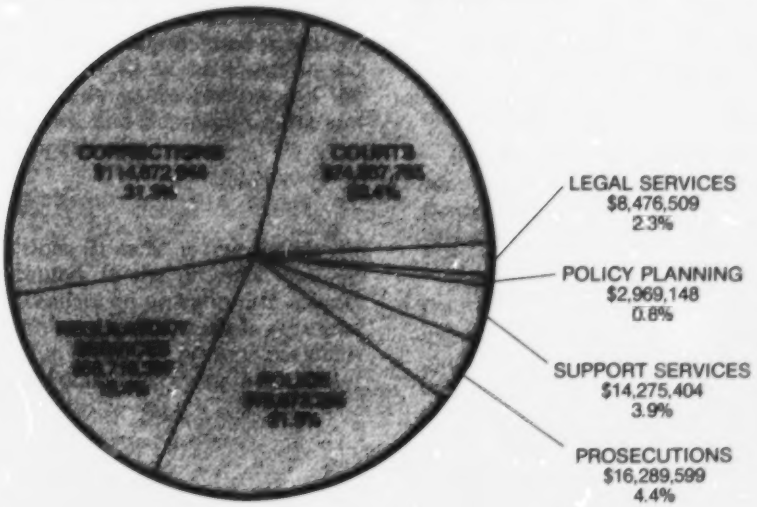
under particular circumstances, as specified in the *Criminal Injury Compensation Act*.

Review of Persons Mentally Unfit to Stand Trial — The Order-in-Council Patients Review Board reviews the circumstances of patients ordered into custody by virtue of having been judged not guilty of a crime by reason of insanity or unfit to stand trial.

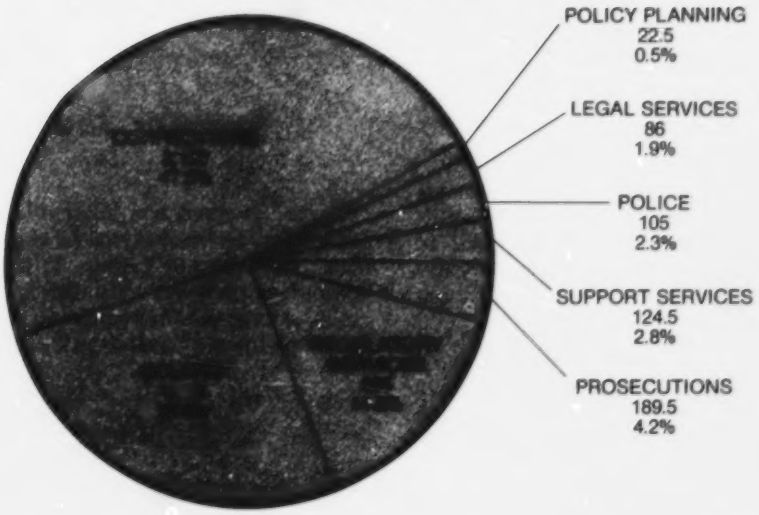
Parole — The B.C. Board of Parole* reviews applications for parole from inmates in provincial correctional centres.

Introduction

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
1985-86 BUDGET ESTIMATE $367,341,051



MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
1985-86 STAFF 4,492.5 (FTEs)



Justice Services

Police

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$78,873,285	$77,195,501
Staff	105	111

The Police Services Branch is responsible for protecting life and property and reducing crime in the province (*Attorney General Act, Police Act*). The Branch oversees policing of the *Criminal Code of Canada* and the offence provisions of provincial statutes, as well as the general discharge of the role of the approximately 6,200 police officers (including auxiliary and reserve) serving the province.

Branch programs include: developing police policy; regulating firearms, private investigators, and security agencies; countering organized crime and major criminal activities; and special programs dealing with drinking driving, traffic safety, crime prevention, and services to victims of crime.

Police Policy

The Policy and Administration Division develops policy on the delivery of police services throughout the province. It also:

- — administers the contracts resulting from federal-provincial agreements on provincial and municipal policing, the 50 provincial-municipal policing agreements, and the federal-provincial agreement on Indian special constables;
- — administers the keep of provincial prisoners; and
- — plans the police role in provincial emergencies.

Firearms, Private Investigators, and Security Agencies

The Security Programs Division administers the part of the *Criminal Code* that relates to weapons generally and firearms specifically. The division also administers the *Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act*, as well as the automobile master-key provisions of the *Criminal Code*, which make it unlawful to possess any device or key that will open a series of automobile locks (doors or ignition) without a licence.

Organized Crime and Major Criminal Activities

The Ministry develops and coordinates efforts to identify, suppress, and prevent organized crime and major criminal activities in the province through the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit (*Justice Administration Act*).

The unit's activities are aimed at controlling, regulating, and preventing organized crime in ways that support the traditional police role of arrest, prosecution, and incarceration; e.g. developing legal strategies against organized crime.

The Vancouver and Vancouver Island Joint Forces Operations attempt to identify and apprehend organized and major criminals in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, and throughout the province through focused, long-term investigations.

Drinking Driving, Traffic Safety, Crime Prevention, and Services to Victims of Crime

A major goal of the Ministry is to encourage all elements of the community to participate in reducing alcohol-related road-traffic accidents, increasing road traffic safety, preventing crime, and improving services to crime victims. The programs directed towards achieving this goal are incorporated in the Policing Programs Division. They include:

- — CounterAttack (drinking driving);
- — Road Traffic Safety;
- — Crime Prevention;
- — Crime Victim Services;
- — Kootenay Committee on Intergroup Relations; and
- — Auxiliary/Reserve Police Programs.

CounterAttack (drinking driving): The Ministry's CounterAttack program was initiated in 1977, in conjunction with the Insurance

Corporation of B.C., with one major objective: reducing alcohol-related road-traffic casualty accidents.

The program's activities involve police enforcement, public information and education, community involvement, research, and recommending appropriate legislation.

CounterAttack's short-term goal of removing drinking drivers from the road, particularly at high-risk periods, relies on such strategies as maintaining a visible police presence, and is supported by public information and media programs to amplify policy activity.

The longer-term goals of changing individuals' and society's attitudes and behavior about drinking driving are met by a number of initiatives. Establishing a province-wide network of youth and community leaders is an example. CounterAttack's school, student, and community programs now in place are a part of a comprehensive traffic safety education process that is unique in North America.

Research since 1977 provides a conservative estimate that drinking-driving casualty accidents would be an average of at least 10 per cent higher each year had no countermeasures been implemented. This translates into a savings of 30 lives, 850 injuries, and millions of dollars per year.

Road Traffic Safety: The government's Continuing Committee for Traffic Safety (CCTS) coordinates government traffic safety initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence and severity of road traffic accidents.

The committee is staffed by the Policing Programs Division and chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Police Services Branch. It comprises senior officials from the ministries of Attorney General (including representatives of the CounterAttack program who contribute staffing, coordination, and resources), Transportation and Highways, Health, the Insurance Corporation of B.C., the RCMP, the Vancouver and Victoria police departments, and the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police.

Crime Prevention: The Police Services Crime Prevention Unit supports a variety of police and community-based crime prevention programs. The unit helps to develop, monitor, and evaluate experimental projects involving a combination of municipal, provincial, federal, and private resources. The conclusion of these projects will have variable impacts on Ministry and other governmental budgets, policy development programs, organizations, and staffing.

Core programs include:

—coordinating provincial police crime-prevention programs;

— developing standardized resource materials;

— liaising with the Justice Institute (Vancouver) and the federal Solicitor General's Consultation Centre; and

— teaching basic and advanced crime prevention programs at the B.C. Police Academy (Justice Institute).

Crime Victim Services: The Ministry's victim services program was established in early-1984 to increase and improve services to crime victims and improve the ways in which the justice system responds to their needs.

The Ministry works with professionals both within and outside government, including community agencies, to achieve these goals. Much of the work includes communication with the public through speaking engagements, panel discussions, and seminars.

Kootenay Committee on Intergroup Relations (KCIR): The KCIR efforts are directed at resolving conflicts between the various Doukhobor groups, and between those groups and government.

The KCIR is chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Police Services Branch, and consists of representatives of the various Doukhobor groups, municipal, provincial, and federal governments, RCMP, Canadian Pacific Investigation Branch, and others who may have a direct concern with these issues.

The committee usually meets three times a year, and between-sessions meetings of the planning and research sub-committee are held involving representatives of the Doukhobor groups and the Attorney General's liaison for Doukhobor Affairs. The sub-committee's pur-

pose is to work towards improved relations between the groups.

Auxiliary/Reserve Police Programs: This program oversees the use of volunteer services of reserve police constables by the various municipal police forces and the deployment of auxiliary police constables by the RCMP.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The CounterAttack program produced and aired eight new television and radio messages throughout the year. The program also designed and constructed:

- a 65-square-meter (700-square-foot) display on drinking-driving for use at the *Expo 86* world fair and in shopping malls;
- six 2.4m-by-3m (8'-by-10') portable billboards on drinking-driving for use by the police and the public at CounterAttack displays and conferences; and
- a permanent drinking-driving videotape display unit for use in the Vancouver Law Courts public education area.

In conjunction with police throughout the province, CounterAttack held a two-week, province-wide roadcheck campaign, which was supported by posters, newspaper coverage, and radio and television messages.

In cooperation with the federal Ministry of Justice, CounterAttack organized B.C.'s public information campaign to introduce changes to the impaired-driving section of the *Criminal Code* proclaimed in December, 1985.

The program also produced over 20 studies on traffic accidents, including a 207-page compilation of research.

Through the cooperative actions of Continuing Committee for Traffic Safety (CCTS) members, a variety of traffic safety initiatives were implemented, including:

- changes to motor vehicle legislation and regulations;
- provincial enforcement programs and pilot projects;
- formation of regional traffic law enforcement committees;
- youth and adult leaders' traffic-safety conferences; and
- school and community education programs.

Comprehensive research and accident analysis helped to direct and evaluate the traffic safety programs. Development began on a five-year traffic-safety plan that, with ministerial consent, will guide the CCTS to 1991.

A major task of the Traffic Safety program was to study the integration of government strategies to reduce the incidence and costs of drinking driving. Three task groups were appointed to examine prevention and deterrence, legislation and enforcement, and treatment and rehabilitation. Consultation with non-governmental agencies and community groups was a feature of the study, which will be considered by the inter-ministerial Deputy Minister's Committee on Social Services.

The Police Services Crime Prevention Unit made a number of service-coordination proposals with other branches and ministries and carried out joint-public-education projects in conjunction with Court Services, Corrections, and the Ministry of Education. A security program package in the B.C. *Housing Code* was put into place with primary assistance from the RCMP and the Ministry of Social Services and Housing.

The B.C. Crime Prevention Association, a broad-based volunteer agency which draws its membership from all elements of the community and police, was supported by the Ministry during the year and, together with the federal Solicitor General's Ministry, co-funded the prestigious *Prevention* magazine and a number of crime prevention workshops for police and community practitioners.

The unit also provided staff services to such groups as the Canadian Police College and the Canadian Industrial Security Association in order to develop programs and provide training.

Policies and programs in victim services continued to be developed during the year, with special focus on family violence.

Police

Some of these activities included:

— developing a directory of services for victims of crime;
— developing a coordinated public education program about victims of crime;
— coordinating victim services activities federally and provincially;
— assessing and revising the Ministry's Wife-Assault Policy;
— distributing the pamphlet, *Wife Assault, Information on Your Rights*;
— implementing a new Child-Sexual-Abuse Policy for the justice system;
— providing cross-system training workshops on the policy in seven communities throughout the province;
— contributing to the development of the *Inter-Ministry Child Sexual Abuse Handbook*;
— providing a directory of services for victims of child abuse;
— funding a variety of small public education projects concerning child sexual abuse; and
— establishing teams of wife-assault and child-sexual-abuse victim-support workers.

Prosecutions

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$16,289,599	$15,860,120
Staff	189.5	234.5

Prosecution of criminal cases, provincial statutes, and certain municipal bylaws in the trial and appellate (appeal) courts of the province and the Supreme Court of Canada are conducted by the Crown counsel services of the Criminal Justice Branch. Crown counsel advise the police and other officials within the criminal justice system on specific cases and deal with witnesses to and victims of crime.

Through its headquarters operations, the Branch:

- provides legal advice to government and develops policy and procedures on matters relating to the criminal law and its enforcement;
- analyses new and established legislation;
- participates on committees, including federal-provincial, and task forces dealing with criminal law and the criminal justice system; and
- provides administrative support for the Crown counsel system, including tranfers of criminal charges and probation orders between provinces, preparation of orders-in-council, notifications under the protection-of-privacy provisions of the *Criminal Code*, and responses to inquiries from the public.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The Branch put into effect new policies and procedures relating to child sexual and physical abuse and wife assault as part of the Ministry's overall policy. The new policies emphasize appropriate charging practices, specially-designated prosecutors, early trial-scheduling, cooperation and coordination between agencies, consideration for victims and their safety, and special prosecuting techniques.

Emphasis was also given to recognizing the rights of victims. Branch management met with community victims' groups to help develop a formal procedure to ensure that the impact of crimes upon the victims could be brought to the attention of the court.

A designated prosecutor was also appointed to act as a provincial resource for regional environmental prosecutors. This initiative reflects the growing concern regarding environmental and fish and wildlife issues.

Crown counsel continued to refine the process through which all police reports are examined by Crown counsel prior to swearing of the information (formal written accusation or charge filed in a court). This has reduced the number of police hours at trials, and, thus, required less police overtime.

The Branch increased its use of contracts for Crown counsel, and use of the private bar in criminal prosecutions was encouraged. The Crown counsel system thereby continued to benefit not only from a highly-trained and professional permanent Crown counsel staff, but also from the use of lawyers outside public service.

The *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the new *Young Offenders Act* continued to have significant impact on the enforcement of the law. Crown counsel were required to remain current on all trial and appellate court decisions on the Charter's impact on the criminal justice system and on developments concerning young offenders.

The final report of a special task force resulted in an automated method of printing informations and methods by which computers can enhance the efficiency of the operation. These initiatives have been of great assistance, particularly in cases of child abuse and in assisting victims and witnesses.

The practice of notifying witnesses through the mail and telephone continued wherever possible in place of personal service of subpeonas. This program has proven cost-effective and efficient and ensures that personal service is used only when necessary.

At the Uniform Law Conference in 1979, British Columbia proposed the establishment of a task force to restructure and rewrite the *Criminal Code*. That review will result in Parliament and the Canadian people having a modern Code that is clear and simple so that the

Prosecutions

criminal law will be understood and its procedures consistent. The comprehensive and accelerated review was approved by the federal government and is underway. A number of federal *Criminal Code* initiatives have taken place as a result, including a number of provisions that became law in December, 1985.

Federal *Criminal Code* omnibus (comprising several items) legislation which became law December, 1985, had significant implications for Crown counsel and the Criminal Justice Branch. The new legislation imposed increased penalties for all forms of impaired driving and created new offences of dangerous or impaired driving causing death or bodily harm. New search and seizure provisions, a scheme of telewarrants (whereby search warrants and warrants for taking blood samples can be obtained from a justice-of-the-peace over the phone), and offences relating to unauthorized use of computers were passed. New provisions relating to the public activities of prostitutes also became law in December, 1985.

Another priority of the Branch involved a system to design legislation regulating the sale and rental of adult video tapes intended for home use.

Workplace equity to ensure advancement of women in management (both lawyers and support staff) and senior counsel roles was also considered a priority during the year.

Courts

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$74,867,765	$73,734,800
Staff	1,170	1,182.6

The Court Services Branch has a dual role in B.C.'s justice system. As a branch of government, it is responsible for providing timely and equitable access to all users of the various levels of courts in British Columbia, including Provincial, County, Supreme, and the B.C. Court of Appeal. As a servant of the courts, however, it is responsible to the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice of the Supreme and County Court, and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court for providing administrative services to the judiciary quite independent of government (*Court of Appeal Act, Supreme Court Act,* amended *Provincial Court Act*, and *Sheriff Act*). The three major programs of the Branch include: court administration; sheriff services; and reporting/recording services (transcripts).

Court Administration

Court administration involves all the clerical, accounting, and quasi-judicial functions required by the approximately 80 locations throughout the province. These include:

- — preparation and maintenance of court files and preparation of court dockets;
- — receipt and disposition of revenue and trust money, including fines, bail, court-ordered family maintenance payments, suiters' trust funds, etc.;
- — provision of justices-of-the-peace for release of accused persons on bail, issuance of warrants, etc.;
- — provision of Supreme Court registrars for taxing (scrutinizing) lawyers' bills, family maintenance hearings, etc.;
- — provision of court clerks for recording pleas, dispositions, trial dates, etc.; and
- — marking, control, security, and disposal of exhibits used in the courts such as drugs, money, and documents.

Sheriffs

Sheriffs services provide prisoner and court security, ensure court attendance by the appropriate parties, including prospective jurors, escort accused and convicted persons to and from the courts, and seize goods or chattels as ordered by the court. Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs are peace officers and have all the powers and responsibilities associated with that position.

Transcripts

Official court reporters and court recorders record and produce verbatim transcripts of all proceedings in the courts in British Columbia.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Increased productivity was a major theme in the Ministry and government in 1985-86. The Branch responded to this theme in various ways.

To involve staff in the development of Branch policy and procedures, five major policy advisory groups were established to review all policy in their respective areas and recommend improved policy to senior managment. The areas included are criminal law, civil law, sheriffs services, resource and revenue, and human resource management. The advisory groups are chaired by senior line managers and include staff from various levels in the field and are staffed from headquarters.

Creation of Court Services Women's Advisory Committee resulted in three major accomplishments:

- — implementation of the "Taking Charge of Your Career" training course;
- — Branch-wide seminars on sexual harrassment; and
- — development of an employment-equity plan for employees of both sexes.

As 40 per cent of the Branch's budget is consumed by facility rental charges, a major planning study was undertaken to assist in the proper management of these resources. The issues raised by the study led to development of

Courts

a strategic plan identifying initiatives that will improve the effectiveness of services.

With its continuing commitment to evaluating major programs, the Branch conducted a detailed security review of 34 court locations throughout the province. This evaluation will result in a review of basic policy on security and ensure that satisfactory procedures are in place.

Managers were involved in a management training program, resulting in identification of a set of core values for the Branch; namely, "Service, Impartiality, and People."

Self-directed training manuals were made available for all staff activity. The manuals provide a means for local administrators to train their staff on the job and provide staff the opportunity to obtain extra training on their own to increase career opportunities.

(*See* Appendix for a description of court activity during fiscal 1985-86.)

Corrections

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$114,872,944	$106,580,344
Staff	2,130	2,124.8

The Corrections Branch provides the services, programs, and facilities in British Columbia for the incarceration of persons who offend the law and community and probation services, including the various levels of intervention, security, control, and supervision required by the provincial justice system (B.C. *Correction Act*, B.C. *Family Relations Act*, federal and provincial *Young Offenders Acts*, *Parole Act*, *Prison and Reformatories Act*, *Criminal Code of Canada*). The Branch also offers mediation and conciliation services to persons considering court intervention in resolving their family/marital disputes. If required, the Branch provides information to the courts to help resolve these disputes, particularly in matters involving family maintenance payments and child custody and access.

Corrections programs and services include: adult institutions for persons remanded into custody to await trial and those serving sentences of up to two years; youth custody centres for remanded and sentenced youth; adult and youth probation services; Family Court counselling; and community service order programs (whereby offenders perform court-ordered community services as a means of making amends).

Adult Correctional Centres

There are 25 adult correctional centres in British Columbia operated and staffed by the Branch. These centres house men and women who are remanded or sentenced to serve terms of up to two years less a day.

All adult correctional centres are categorized as either secure, open, or community facilities. In secure facilities, the major emphasis is on control, separation, and protection. Open facilities, which house the largest proportion of sentenced inmates, emphasize organized work projects or specialized programs. In community facilities, the emphasis is given to community employment, training, and education.

There are two correctional centres for women: one open and one secure. Both are located on the Lower Mainland.

All prisoners remanded in custody are housed in secure centres. Prisoners who have received sentences of up to two years less a day are admitted, at appropriate security levels, to various correctional centres throughout the province.

Youth Custody Centres

There are nine youth custody centres in British Columbia: four secure and five open.

Willingdon Youth Detention Centre (Burnaby), Victoria Youth Detention Centre, Boulder Bay Youth Detention Centre (near Maple Ridge), and Chilliwack Youth Detention Centre provide secure custody for youth of both sexes who are remanded into custody to await trial or are sentenced to a period of containment. Secure facilities provide custody for young offenders while offering opportunities for age-appropriate activities aimed at lessening the negative effects of containment.

Centre Creek and Pierce Creek Camps (Chilliwack), Lakeview Camp (near Campbell River), and Southview and Holly Open Custody Centres (Burnaby) are open facilities for youths of both sexes who do not require secure custody. Open facilities prepare young offenders for successful reintegration into the community by providing a structured setting to promote personal growth, educational skills, and healthy work habits and by rewarding positive behavior and performance.

Probation, Family, and Community Services

Probation officers, including Family Court counsellors, are posted to all major centres in British Columbia. They serve courts, offenders, and families, as well as the communities in which they are posted. They are peace officers and officers of the court, and function as community workers, administrators, counsellors, investigators, mediators, referral agents, as-

sessors, negotiators, and resources to other components of the justice system.

As peace officers, they support law and order by monitoring offenders and enforcing the probation, bail, or parole conditions to which the offenders are subject. As officers of the court, they conduct investigations and prepare reports on accused persons and offenders and advise the courts in matters such as sentencing, program information/availability, and dispositional reviews. Those working as Family Court counsellors help families and couples having difficulties with separation and child custody, guardianship, and access and provide information to assist the court in determining child custody and access issues.

In their role as community workers, probation officers provide information and counselling services (probation, bail, dispute resolution, child custody, access, and guardianship) to the citizens of their communities and help in identifying, developing, and managing needed social resources.

Complaints and Standards Enforcement

The Inspection and Standards Division receives and examines complaints from or on behalf of inmates, probationers, parolees, and youths or parents of youths in contact with the corrections system. On the request of the Commissioner of Corrections or the Attorney General, the division also investigates matters respecting incidents of disturbance, riot, death, serious accident, escape, and allegations of staff misconduct. Such requests may require extensive investigation, reporting, and recommendations involving various levels of authority and agency contact.

The director of the division also receives and reviews appeals from inmates and staff regarding punishment decisions from disciplinary hearings resulting from alleged violations of institutional rules.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The Branch completed a strategic plan to guide it in meeting its organizational goals and making operational decisions. The plan includes five strategic themes:

(1) ensure and review conformity, consistency, and compatibility of programs and services;

(2) improve productivity and means for increasing revenue, and provide sentenced inmates with beneficial work programs;

(3) develop programs that respond to emerging demands;

(4) improve efficiency while maintaining quality of service; and

(5) improve job-effectiveness and job-satisfaction.

Program efficiency and effectiveness goals required special focus on the need to review the range and extent of correctional services in the province. The Branch reviewed and revised its published mission statement and goals, strategies, and beliefs to reflect this need and to assist the regions in delivering their services accordingly.

The Branch also began a review of the over-500 standards by which the various programs and services operate. The review is expected to be completed in mid-1986-87.

Due to the increasing number of contracted services, the Branch completed a pilot project to audit seven youth and adult community programs contracted to the Branch. As a result of the project, a general format was prepared to help with future audits of contracted services.

The Branch prepared Ministry proposals for amendments to the *Young Offenders Act*, and represented the Ministry on federal-provincial meetings and co-chaired a federal-provincial working group on custody issues of the Act, all of which resulted in a bill to amend the Act being placed before the House of Commons.

Outside individuals and organizations provided significant input to policy and program development throughout the Branch, particularly regarding youth matters. Joint solutions to various problems were obtained through continuing cooperation with other ministries, as well. Formal procedures were established throughout the province between

probation officers and their counterparts in the Ministry of Human Resources dealing with reporting sexual and physical abuse of children.

The Branch provided one full-time staff person to coordinate the development of Branch inmate work policy. Initiatives were undertaken towards:

- obtaining legislative and Treasury Board authority to permit a special revolving fund for inmate work programs;
- inter-ministry agreements to identify and develop new cooperative-venture inmate work programs and initiatives to involve the private sector;
- a provincial system allowing existing inmate work programs to be both improved and expanded to provide consistent opportunity and application throughout the province; and
- a financial and management system that will allow the Branch to generate additional revenue for expanding inmate work programs and offsetting the cost to government of maintaining inmates.

The Branch developed various programs to meet the emerging needs of clients, the justice system, and society in general. New incentives included responses to family violence, responses to child sexual abuse, and improved health care for inmates.

Consideration was and still is being given to the concept of electronic surveillance, or "house arrest," with the possibility that a pilot project may be implemented in 1986-87. The concept involves monitoring an offender who has been confined to his home (or some other specified premises) during a specified period of time by means of an electronic device attached to his person.

A new group therapy program for sexual offenders was developed in the Interior Region to accommodate male offenders on probation and carefully-selected inmates on approved temporary absence from institutions.

The first inmate suffering from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was received at Lakeside Correctional Centre for Women in Burnaby. Staff and inmate workshops were conducted by the medical officer to provide information regarding the disease. Additional information was received from public health officials and management introduced policies to deal with future cases as they arise.

Preliminary work was completed for the replacement of the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre (announced by the Attorney General early in the fiscal year). The new facility, which will accommodate 160 inmates (the existing facility accommodates 108), is scheduled for completion in 1989.

Management throughout the Branch placed a high priority on promoting professionalism and pride among staff. Numerous on-the-job training programs and workshops were provided in addition to the regular programs offered at the Corrections Academy at the Justice Institute in Vancouver. Staff were provided opportunities to engage in special projects, program-development initiatives, job-sharing, and job exchanges. Staff responded to these initiatives by continuing to maintain a dedicated professional approach to their work and providing services consistent with the standards of the Branch.

Meeting the demands for new youth facilities and programs: The formality and complexity of the youth justice system in Canada was significantly increased with the proclamation of the federal *Young Offenders Act*. The act requires new or enhanced justice, educational, and health services, including open and secure custodial facilities (apart from adults), court-appointed defense counsel, and increased medical and psychological services.

It also redefines the minimum age of a young offender from seven to 12 years and, effective 1 APR 85, the maximum age from 16 (in British Columbia) to 17 years.

The change in age resulted in a dramatic increase in youth populations, particularly at the Willingdon Youth Detention Centre in Burnaby. Modifications to programs had to be made and new facilities had to be introduced. Throughout these changes, the Branch made a continual effort to improve the quality of environment for institutionalized youth.

Corrections

Some of the major developments include:

— a 10-bed residential attendance program, in conjunction with a day-attendance program for 12 youths, opened in Nanaimo;

— a contract awarded for a 10-bed residential attendance program in Victoria, to be implemented in 1986-87;

— renovations to the Victoria Youth Detention Centre, plus approval for construction of a six-bed open custody unit on site, to be completed in 1987;

— a temporary five-bed unit opened at Lakeview Youth Camp;

— the 40-bed Chilliwack River Correctional Centre converted from an adult open-custody facility to a youth secure custody;

— the Pierce Creek Youth Camp reopened with a 10-bed capacity;

— the Boulder Bay Camp converted from an adult facility to a youth containment centre;

— substantial upgrading to Willingdon Youth Detention Centre;

— an eight-bed residential attendance program for girls established in the Fraser Region;

— a six-bed co-ed youth residential attentance program established in the Kootenays;

— construction of a 30-bed open-custody camp approved for Logan Lake, to be opened in fall, 1986;

— a weekend-attendance program for youth developed at Salmon Arm;

— the Wells Gray Residential Attendance Program developed for male youth; and

— construction planned for a 44-bed combined secure and open youth containment centre in Prince George.

Legal Services

Legal Services to Government

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$8,476,509	$8,701,165
Staff	86	90

The Attorney General, all ministries of government, and certain extra-ministerial governmental agencies receive whatever civil (non-criminal) legal services they require through the Legal Services Branch.

The primary goal of the Branch is to provide the government's requirement for legal services in such specialized areas as civil and constitutional litigation, administrative law, labor law, drafting and publication of statutory material, preparation of government or government agency contracts, and legal advice on proposed government policy. The Branch also provides all government ministries day-to-day legal advice on the administration of their programs and responsibilities.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

A major program accounting for some 35 per cent of the Branch's annual budget was providing legal services and counsel to the Ministry of Human Resources in the area of family law. This was done through a core of staff as well as private lawyers under contract to the Ministry. These lawyers were primarily engaged in wardship proceedings, defence of wards under the *Young Offenders Act*, family advocate matters, and related matters on behalf of the Superintendent of Family and Child Services.

Other significant activities included:

— a special team of lawyers to prepare computerized legal-briefs of historical material relating to aboriginal title, colonial documents, and related legislation; and

— legal preparation for the government in the high volume of litigation concerning S. 15 (equality rights provision) of the *Charter of Rights*.

Planning and Support Services

Policy Planning

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$2,969,148	$2,387,409
Staff	22.5	15.5

Each branch of the Ministry is responsible for developing most of its own policies dealing with its specific operations. Policies affecting the Ministry as a whole and issues that do not fall comfortably within the mandate of a specific branch, however, are dealt with by the Policy Planning Branch. These include:

- providing specialized policy, analysis, and program development services to the Ministry and its Executive Committee;
- providing various project services such as designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating Ministry programs and procedures, administering grants, and providing consultation services to community groups;
- consulting on a regular basis with the Legal Services Society, Law Reform Commission, various federal agencies, the Law Society of B.C., the Canadian Bar Association, and other organizations on justice-related matters; and
- coordinating the Ministry's legislative program and its participation in federal-provincial meetings and conferences.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Legislative Program: The Branch prepared nine bills for introduction in the legislature:

Bill 33 — *Charter of Rights Amendment Act*, 1985
Bill 34 — *Family Law Reform Amendment Act*, 1985
Bill 42 — *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* (No. 2), 1985
Bill 47 — *Notaries Amendment Act*, 1985
Bill 55 — *Attorney General Statutes Amendment Act*, 1985
Bill 57 — *Court Order Enforcement Act*, 1985
Bill 58 — *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act* (No. 1), 1985
Bill 67 — *Foreign Arbitral Awards Act*
Bill 70 — *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* (No. 4), 1985

The Branch also developed legislative proposals for international and commercial arbitration procedures and classification and regulation of videotapes. Extensive review of legislation pertaining to self-governing professions and consultation with the professions involved resulted in changes of several of the statutes governing these groups.

Other legislative activities included coordinating implementation of the new traffic ticketing and fine enforcement procedures introduced by the Ministry.

Federal-Provincial Relations: On behalf of the contracting provinces and territories, the Branch coordinated negotiations with the federal government for cost-sharing agreements for legal aid services to both adults and young persons.

The Branch continued to coordinate the province's administration of agreements between the federal and provincial governments concerning the exchange of information between governments under the *Access to Information Act* (Canada).

Branch staff represented the Ministry on a number of federal-provincial committees throughout the year, and one staff member was seconded for three-months to the federal government's task force examining all federal justice-related programs.

Community Grants Program: Funding of the community grants program by the Special Projects Division continued to provide community agencies' administrative costs, such as salaries, office overhead, clerical expenses, and transportation. Funds totalling $549,871 were provided to:

- Allied Indian and Metis Society;
- B.C. Borstal Association;
- Elizabeth Fry Society (Vancouver, Kamloops, and Central Okanagan);
- John Howard Society of B.C.;
- M2W2 Association-Christian Volunteers in Corrections; and
- Public Legal Education Society.

Grants totalling $282,312 were made to six sexual assault centres located in Duncan, Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Fort St. John, and

Terrace. The centres provide services to victims of sexual assault, as well as community education about this issue.

A grant of $1,370,870 for the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of B.C. was jointly-funded with the federal Department of Justice. The program provides a network of native courtworkers throughout the province to help native Indians who come into conflict with the law. A management review of this program was carried out by the Branch in 1984-85 and negotiations are underway with the federal government to undertake a full evaluation. Staff continued to provide consultation services to help the agency implement recommendations of the review.

All grants are monitored by Special Projects Division staff through regular agency reports and direct contact. The organizations continue to make necessary program and staffing decisions to ensure that services are delivered as effectively as possible within available resources. As well, a management review was conducted for and a training program provided to the 'Ksan House Society, a sexual-assault-victim support centre in Terrace.

***Young Offenders Act* (YOA) Implementation:** Staff continued to participate on the YOA systems and policy committees. The Branch coordinated a review of Crown counsel screening-policy and use of alternative measures (to detention) for young offenders.

The Branch also continued to operate the alternative measures monitoring and evaluation program and the YOA program-development-fund coordination program. The purpose of the monitoring program is to provide:

- — uniform information about the the use of funded alternative-measures programs for management-monitoring and decision-making;
- — a province-wide profile of various alternative measures programs; and
- — an information-base for evaluating the impact of the YOA and B.C. policy regarding the use of pretrial alternatives.

The purpose of the development fund project is to coordinate program-funding requests to the federal government from any community or provincial government source.

A number of specialized YOA training workshops were presented to professional groups such as school administrators and youth workers.

YOA provisions allow the Attorney General to appoint Youth Justice committees in any community to help ensure the effectiveness of the youth justice process. When the YOA was proclaimed (2 APR 84), it was stipulated that any Family Court committee that was already established under the *Provincial Court Act* could apply for dual designation as a Family Court/Youth Justice Committee. The Special Projects Division acts as the liaison between the committees and the Ministry.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, there were 22 Family Court committees in communities throughout the province in various stages of activity. Thirteen of these applied for and received dual designation. An annual meeting of all of these committees was held in February in Victoria where the mandate and future roles were reviewed. A number of meetings took place with community representatives during the year and a Family Court Committee newsletter was established to continue sharing information on local and provincial concerns.

Crime Prevention: In partnership with Police Services and the Ministry's Committee on Crime Prevention, the Special Projects Division provided consultation and limited financial assistance to agencies and organizations active in crime prevention. A variety of activities resulted, including development of a bi-monthly crime-prevention magazine and sponsorship of crime-prevention seminars on topics ranging from basic crime prevention to child sexual-abuse prevention, as well as a number of crime-prevention workshops at the 1985 Canadian Criminal Justice Association Congress held in Vancouver.

A variety of other community-based crime-prevention programs were sponsored, including a child-sexual-abuse newsletter, a crime-prevention brochure for visitors during *Expo 86*, Chinese language crime-prevention pro-

grams, and various youth crime-prevention projects.

Extensive consultation services were provided to produce reports and recommendations for the Coquitlam Vandal Watch Program and to the City of White Rock regarding problems on Marine Drive.

Wife Assault Policy Implementation Team: The wife-assault policy implemented in 1984, which reflects a law-enforcement approach to wife assault, was supported and monitored by the Wife Assault Implementation Team coordinated by the Special Projects Division. The team consisted of representatives from Police Services, Corrections, and Criminal Justice. The intent was to ensure effective implementation of the policy in all jurisidictions of the province and to assist both justice system professionals and community agencies in understanding the intent of the policy.

A number of publications were developed as well as a 40-minute training video and corresponding discussion material for justice system professionals and individuals working with victims of wife assault. Workshops were held in 11 locations across the province to provide orientation and to answer questions concerning the new policy.

All operations collected statistics to document the effectiveness of the policy and negotiations continued with the federal government to obtain funds for a formal evaluation.

Family Maintenance Project: In partnership with the former Ministry of Human Resources, the Ministry of Attorney General continued to operate a pilot demonstration project to enforce existing family maintenance payment orders and obtain or vary maintenance orders for those eligible (initially, only those on income assistance). The program aims to:

- provide legal and court services required by clients to obtain, vary, or enforce a maintenance order;
- increase the size of maintenance awards being made by the court;
- automatically monitor all payments;
- initiate enforcement proceedings immediately upon default; and
- evaluate the project in terms of its cost-benefit and potential for expansion as a regular program, and to design an appropriate program model.

Pornography: Assistance was provided to the Working Committee on Pornography to develop policy and act as liaison with community groups and other concerned organizations. Consultation and assistance was provided to the Periodical Review Board, established as an independent body to advise the magazine industry on distribution of pornography.

Staff assisted in organizing the Attorney General's tour of seven communities in the fall of 1985, during which he received public feedback on his proposed revisions to the *Motion Picture Act*. Assistance was also provided to the director of Film Classification to help implement the new systems and procedures necessary under the proposed revisions.

Public Legal Education/Information Committee: As a result of recommendations from a Ministry task force, this committee was struck in the fall of 1984 to exchange information among the funders of public legal education, including the Ministry, the Law Foundation, the Solicitor General's Consultation Centre, and the Legal Services Society. Through regular meetings, this arrangement continued to reduce gaps or overlaps in responding to funding requests from a variety of applicants involved in public legal education.

Child Abuse: Staff participated in the Inter-Ministry Committee on Child Abuse and helped organize a conference in the fall of 1985 to launch the revised inter-ministry handbook. As members of the Ministry's Child Sexual Abuse Policy Implementation Team, staff also attended several public speaking engagements and helped organize and chair staff-training workshops on investigation and prosecuting techniques.

Support Services

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$14,275,404	$12,218,329
Staff	124.5	125.5

The Support Services Branch provides the central services required to support the overall operations of the Ministry, including the independent boards, agencies, and commissions. These services include finance and administration, payroll and accounts services, data services, public information, library services, and personnel services.

Finance and Administration

Financial operations, facilities planning and management, and financial policy, budgeting, and analysis are all incorporated within the Finance and Administration Division. The division:

- — develops, applies, and maintains financial policies needed within the Ministry as a consequence of Treasury Board directives;
- — manages the Ministry's accounts, payroll, and revenue; and
- — manages all Ministry facilities.

Data Services

The Data Services Division provides support in data processing, word processing, and office automation. Its primary responsibility is to prepare the Ministry's Information Systems Plan and ensure the coordinated and integrated management of Ministry systems.

Public Information

The Information Services Division provides short- and long-term communication and information planning and implementation for the Ministry. The division also produces internal and external information programs, publications, and audio-visual material required by the various boards, branches, and commissions, and handles media relations for the Ministry.

Library Services

The Branch maintains a comprehensive, Ministry-wide library service to develop and maintain a central law and management collection, provide a province-wide reference service, and acquire the published and unpublished materials required by the Ministry.

Personnel Services

The Personnel Services Division provides advice and service to all Ministry line managers in all areas of personnel administration, including:

- — information on labor relations issues;
- — advice in all areas of staffing;
- — classification of all positions within the Ministry;
- — advice on organizational structures, reporting relationships, and related matters;
- — advice in areas such as training, occupational health and safety, and women's programs as required; and
- — advice on personnel policy and regulations, or development of such policies and regulations, as required.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Changes implemented as a result of Treasury Board directives have improved management of all financial transactions of the Ministry. Many of the management functions of the Office of Controller General have been redirected to each ministry. Complete final audits on all disbursements are now performed by the ministries themselves. Revenues are controlled and accounted for through a ministry-based accounts receivable system.

The B.C. Buildings Corporation's 1985-86 building-occupancy (rental) charges for the Ministry totalled $65,273,880. These accounts were managed by the Facilities Management Unit.

Data Services was reorganized as a separate division reporting directly to the Assistant

Support Services

Deputy Minister, Support Services, emphasizing the importance of systems for the Ministry's future.

An inter-agency literature distribution committee was established to develop and implement a system for distributing relevant justice-related public information literature to all court locations throughout the province. The committee reviews all relevant literature and selects appropriate material based on criteria established by Ministry officials and the judiciary. The committee consists of representatives of: Information Services Division; Court Services Branch; Public Legal Education; Legal Services Society; Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch; and the Law Society of B.C.

Increased demand from most Ministry boards, branches, and commissions increased the need and use of printed and audio-visual material, placing high demands on the Information Services Division. The materials produced by the division aided Ministry staff in conveying pertinent information to the public with greater effectiveness and savings of staff time.

In addition to various internal documents, including two staff newsletters (*Corrections Information*, Corrections Branch; *FORUM*, Court Services Branch), the division produced two audio-visual programs and 35 publications for the justice community and the public. (*See* Appendix for complete list.)

The central Ministry library in Victoria was expanded in late-1985. The reference service was upgraded in early-1985 by subscribing to *Infoglobe*, permitting on-line searching of *The Globe and Mail* national newspaper, and *LawNet*, through which Supreme Court of Canada decisions are available the morning after pronouncement in Ottawa.

The Ministry continued to take an increased responsibility for personnel administration delegated from the central government personnel services agency. A new management classification plan resulted in establishment of a special committee to review managerial positions. The division took on special assignments in a variety of personnel areas and developed policies in personnel administration.

Regulatory Services

Regulatory Services

Film and Video Regulation

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$277,047	$213,799
Staff	5	5

The Film Classification Division of the Criminal Justice Branch regulates the public exhibition of film and video (*Motion Picture Act*, 1979). All films and video to be shown to the public must be submitted to the director for examination and classification. The three categories of classification are *General*, *Mature*, and *Restricted*. A fourth classification, which is experimental and has not been included in the *Motion Picture Act*, is *14 Years — Limited Admission*. A "Warning" may also be assigned indicating that the contents of a film may be objectionable. The director has authority to refuse approval and to order eliminations in any picture. The director also may examine and approve or disapprove all advertising connected with these pictures.

Licences to operate theatres and film exchanges are issued by this division and are subject to the usual conditions regarding issuance, suspension, and cancellation.

Inspection of theatres is performed as required in response to complaints by the public. The RCMP occasionally are asked to perform these inspections on behalf of the director.

If a distributor or exhibitor is dissatisfied with a decision made by the director concerning the approval or classification of a film or the issuance, suspension, or cancellation of a licence, he has the right to appeal to a board established under the *Motion Picture Act*. The appeal board consists of three members appointed by Cabinet.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The division viewed 635 films during the year. One feature-length film was banned from public exhibition and 88 features had eliminations made in them as a condition of approval.

The program is revenue producing:

Revenue Source	1985-86	1984-85
Inspection fees	$197,837.50	$187,730.00
Motion picture licences	13,250.00	12,650.00
Film exchange licences	8,650.00	9,684.00
Totals	$219,737.50	$210,064.00

Land Titles

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$14,613,005	$9,748,271
Staff	285	290

The Land Title Office (LTO) assures absolute security of titles to land and interests in land recognized by the Crown (*Land Title Act*).

The LTO administers the Torrens Title Registration System in British Columbia. Under this system, a person who establishes that he is entitled to an estate in land may apply to the registrar to have his title to that estate registered. On registration, the title is assured by the government.

The LTO reports administratively through the Support Services Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The Branch continued to automate offices in Kamloops, Vancouver, and Prince George. Approximately 25 per cent of all titles to private land in the province have now been converted to electronic media. A major review of the security of land title records and revenue collection was completed by publishing the Direct Access to Records Policy and implementing revenue control measures.

The Branch received 852,536 applications (compared to 568,445 the previous year) and processed 846,614 (562,145) at an average cost of $16.07 ($24.39) per application. Land title revenues amounted to $33,613,656.32.

Beneficent Estate Management and Protection (Public Trustee)

	1985-86	1984-85
Net Recoveries	$3,853,556	$2,721,305
Staff	88.3	90

Regulatory Services

The Office of the Public Trustee (OPT) protects the estates and financial interests of mentally disordered persons and minors and settles the estates of deceased and missing persons where no other person is competent or willing to act (*Public Trustee Act*).

The need for the OPT arises from the historical incidence of abuse of incapable persons and estates. The OPT attempts to:

— promote personal and family responsibility and provide appropriate protection;

— encourage family and community participation in the management of the estates and trusts; and

— enhance the mentally disordereds' or minor persons' participation, independence, and comfort.

The OPT reports administratively to the Support Services Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The OPT client caseload consisted of 28,000 files, which has increased 25 per cent over the previous five years. Individual transactions increased by 200 per cent over the same period.

The net annual increase in client caseload is anticipated to continue at a nominal 5 per cent per year, but cases are becoming more complex. The OPT will continue to examine and implement more efficient methods of processing transactions in order to cope with growing client complexities.

The value of assets managed by the OPT rose from $106 million in 1981 to $228 million in 1985, an increase of 215 per cent. Eighty five per cent of client trusts and estates had asset values under $10,000, and 70 per cent of Public Trustee revenue was derived from trusts and estates valued in excess of $10,000.

Coroners

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$4,067,586	$3,374,695
Staff	31.2	32

The B.C. Coroners Service determines who, how, when, where, and by what means an individual died (B.C. *Coroners Act*, 1979).

Coroners attempt to clarify the facts of all unexpected and unnatural deaths for the public record and to prevent future loss of life in similar circumstances. They are primarily responsible for instituting and carrying out inquiries or inquests into deaths that occur other than through natural causes and into all deaths that require investigation in the public interest.

There are approximately 20,000 deaths each year in the province. Of these, 9,000 are of the type that must be reported to a coroner.

The Coroners Service has four program areas: investigative; judicial; preventive; and administrative.

Investigative

The investigative program identifies all the circumstances surrounding a sudden and unexpected death. The facts and circumstances of a death, once determined, are made a part of the public record of the province and add to the sum of knowledge in the fields of forensic (medical law) science, pathology (study of disease), public safety, and public health. Coroners retain expert services to assist in their investigations. In addition to the investigations performed by police, Workers' Compensation Board, Transport Canada, etc., the Coroners Service relies on specialized experts to help disclose all the facts and circumstances surrounding a death.

Judicial

The judicial program deals with the manner in which an investigation of a death is concluded. The answers to the questions of who, how, where, when, and by what means are provided by either the Coroner's Report of Inquiry or a public forum (i.e. inquest), wherein those answers and appropriate recommendations are provided by the jury on the basis of evidence presented to it.

Regulatory Services

Preventive

Helping to prevent a death of a similar nature from occurring in the future is one of the major objectives of the Coroners Service and is provided through inquest recommendations, public awareness, statistical analysis, and research. The Chief Coroner brings the findings and recommendations of coroners and juries to the attention of appropriate persons, agencies, and ministries of government.

Administrative

The administrative program establishes the organizational framework in which the other programs and responsibilities are performed.

The Coroners Service reports administratively to the Support Services Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Improvements in the quality of coroners' investigations continued during the year. This was due primarily to the assistance of special investigators, and management support by the regional coroners to the approximately 125 fee-for-service coroners throughout the province.

Of the service's total budget, $2,521,186 specifically contributed to conducting investigations into sudden and unexpected deaths.

To assist coroners, a Forensic Investigation seminar, sponsored by the UBC Department of Pathology and the B.C. Coroners Service, was held 3-5 OCT 85. Coroners from around the province attended the sessions in Vancouver. Some of the topics presented by experts in the respective fields included child abuse, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), bloodstain pattern analysis, anaesthetic deaths, forensic postmortems (autopsies), and commercial vehicle fatalities. Without exception, coroners in attendance ranked the seminar very high.

The preventive program continued to be enhanced by computer technology. A data base of coroners' and juries' recommendations was being established targetting areas such as hazardous products, medical devices, industrial fatalities, commercial vehicle fatalities, child abuse, alcohol-related fatalities, recreational fatalities, suicides, air crashes, and deaths in community care facilities. Previous recommendations and responses will be identified to coroners to help them make the most practical recommendations in cases they are currently investigating.

The Provincial Toxicology Centre performed toxicological analyses for the Service. Due to the necessity for state-of-the-art technology in conducting analyses, arrangements were concluded for leasing a special device (gas chromatograph/mass spectrophotometer) to allow definitive, qualitative, and quantitative analysis of specimens.

Police Practices and Training

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$541,266	$470,355
Staff	6	5

Police practices and training are regulated by the B.C. Police Commission under the *Police Act*. Training is provided by the B.C. Police Academy.

The Commission was established in 1974 to improve policing standards, develop integrated police training programs, promote better communication between the various police services, foster greater cooperation and understanding between the police and the public, and ensure fair and impartial citizen-complaint and staff-discipline procedures.

The Commission consists of the chairman and two members. Activities include:

- conducting special investigations, inquiries, and research studies;
- promoting and coordinating development projects;
- advising police boards and police forces;
- auditing municipal police forces;
- monitoring police selection and training procedures;

— supervising the citizen-complaint process; and
— adjudicating (judging and rendering decisions of) citizen-complaint and staff-discipline appeals.

The Commission is also required under the *Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act* to adjudicate licensing application appeals.

Although the Commission reports directly to the Attorney General, administrative services are provided by the Police Services Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The main activities of the Commission during the year included:

— an inquiry into the use of video recording equipment in police investigations;
— comprehensive audits of the Victoria and Port Moody municipal departments;
— an audit of the patrol section, North Division, of the Vancouver department;
— audits of the uniform crime reporting procedures of eight of the 12 independent municipal departments;
— a study of ammunition standards;
— an analysis of the police discipline regulations;
— a study of firing range requirements;
— an analysis of victim rights in the criminal process and compensation by offenders;
— an analysis of compensable criminal harms in sentencing;
— a survey of comparative police strength, caseloads, and costs in four municipalities;
— an analysis of the aims, objectives, and activities of the Commission itself; and
— convening and conducting two regional police board workshops.

Police Act amendments respecting citizen-complaints were approved by the legislature in June, 1985. These provided police authorities with the power to refuse to investigate certain complaints. Proper appeal procedures were included. The Commission also introduced, after consultation with police boards, a standardized citizen-complaint form. There were 292 complaints against municipal constables and 830 against members of the RCMP, for a total of 1,122 in the year, an increase of 8.7 per cent over the previous year.

The Commission received 19 appeals during the year from the decisions of the registrar of private investigation and security agencies, an increase of 58 per cent over the previous year. Of these, 16 were appeals by employees and the remaining three were by employers. Two of the employee appeals were allowed.

The Police Academy at the Justice Institute in Vancouver provided basic training for 67 members, including two police women hired by Ports Canada Police — the largest block of recruits since the establishment of the Academy in 1978. There was a record of 11,351 student training days provided. Several new advanced courses were introduced, including a police managers program designed to serve mid-management policing needs and a micro-technology familiarization course for officers required to use computers or supervise computer operators. Other services included:

— a course in hostage-negotiation techniques;
— a program for police media relations;
— an officer-survival program;
— seminars on *Criminal Code* revisions;
— two Career Development Centre programs; and
— the compiling of a police continuing education calendar.

Horse Racing

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$10	$10
Staff	15	—

The B.C. Racing Commission was established in 1960 under the *Racing Commission Act* (now the *Horse Racing Act*) to govern, direct, control, and regulate horse racing in the province. Cabinet regulations require supervision of all race meetings, licensing of all par-

ticipants, and maintenance of a permanent staff of racing officials, investigators, and clerical personnel.

Harness racing judges and thoroughbred racing stewards are in attendance and directly supervise racing at each race meeting. Trained investigators are available to assist these officials. Licensed veterinarians are employed by the Commission to examine all horses prior to racing.

Although the Commission reports directly to the Attorney General, it reports administratively to the Support Services Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Racing Commission officials issued 699 rulings, most of which were the result of careless or irregular driving and riding practices. Only 15 rulings were related to the use of illegal medication on horses. Most of these were for the misuse of analgesics and anti-inflamatory agents. The parimutuel wagering (in which bettors share the net of each pool in proportion to their wagers) during this period totalled $212,583,322, with a total of 1,586,318 patrons attending the tracks throughout the province. These totals dropped marginally from the previous year.

The Commission conducted 16 formal meetings to hear appeals from rulings of the racing officials, consider and determine race-date applications, discuss the formula of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund with the advisory committees, and establish disbursement policies. The Commission continued to consult with other racing commissions and racing organizations in this country and the United States, and attended conferences in Tucson, Arizona, and Ottawa.

The Horse Racing Improvement Fund continued to offer awards to British Columbia owners and breeders of horses competing on British Columbia race tracks. The Commission is optimistic that the quality of B.C.-bred horses will continue to improve through the incentives offered by the program.

In the thoroughbred sector for 1986, the formula was altered to raise the qualifying standard for breeder-premiums. Certain steps were also taken in the standardbred sector to further encourage the improvement of the racing stock in future years.

Fire Training, Suppression, and Prevention

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$2,709,747	$2,079,659
Staff	43	44

The provincial Fire Commissioner administers and enforces the *Fire Services Act* and the regulations covering the reduction of injuries and loss of life and property from fire. The *Municipal Act* contains provisions for municipalities to form fire departments to carry out fire suppression in their areas.

There are approximately 3,000 full-time career firefighters, 6,000 volunteers, and 300 industrial firefighters in approximately 380 fire departments within B.C. These fire service personnel are in various ways directed, coordinated, or supported by the Fire Commissioner's office.

Because of its special nature, forest fire protection is the responsibility of the Protection Branch, Ministry of Forests. The emergency powers of the Fire Commissioner, however, are exercised for evacuation purposes from time to time in cooperation with forestry fire officials.

The objectives of the Office of the Fire Commissioner are to:

— administer and enforce the *Fire Services Act* and regulations;

— consult with and advise municipalities on the organization and establishment of fire departments and on fire prevention matters;

— establish minimum standards for selecting and training fire service personnel;

— provide funding for the Fire Academy (Justice Institute, Vancouver);

— collect, study, and publicize information on fires;

— assist and advise fire departments in their inspections and fire investigation responsibilities; and

— provide emergency response in incidents involving hazardous materials and in fire incidents where loss of life or suspected crime occurred.

Although the Fire Commissioner reports directly to the Attorney General, his office is administered by the Support Services Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Fire service personnel throughout the province:

— investigated 354 suspicious fires or fires where there was loss of life, large property damage, or where violations of the regulations were suspected;

— examined and approved 1,336 plans to ensure compliance with applicable regulations under the *Fire Services Act*;

— conducted 25 fire protection surveys for the provision of water supplies, fire apparatus, fire station, and fire fighter requirements;

— inspected 534 properties for fire safety deficiencies;

— made 39 court appearances as expert witnesses in civil and criminal cases; and

— provided guidance, advice, and direction to the public and the fire service in the enforcement of the various complex codes and standards relating to fire safety. Approximately 25 per cent of fire inspectors' time was spent on this activity.

There were approximately 550 local assistants to the Fire Commissioner, plus RCMP who acted as local assistants. Local assistants have the authority to issue orders to rectify or improve deficiencies under the *Fire Services Act* or *Fire Code Regulation*. If an owner of a building or his representative wishes to appeal the order, he may do so to the Fire Commissioner. The appeal is acknowledged and an inspection may be conducted. The owner is contacted, a hearing may be held, and a written decision is provided affirming, modifying, or revoking the order. If the owner still wishes to contest the decision, he may proceed to court. There were 158 such appeals during the year. No decision of the Fire Commissioner was taken to court.

In Fire Mation, the official bulletin of the Fire Commissioner, continued to be published. The bi-monthly publication was in its eleventh year.

The following guidelines were also published:

85-1 *Relocatable Industrial Accommodation*

85-2 *Maintenance of Fire Extinguishing Systems for Commercial Cooking Equipment*

The guidelines are essential for uniform enforcement of codes and regulations in the province. Approximately 50,000 copies of guidelines on various other fire safety subjects were distributed, the largest being a 15-page publication on fire safety with solid fuels.

With the aid of a micro-computer, the office continued to provide statistical data on fires. This data was most often sought by fire prevention officials, insurance companies, and product-testing and research organizations.

A provincial fire-prevention contest, initiated at the request of the fire service in 1982, was continued for the third year. The purpose of the contest was to encourage and reward development and wider use of effective fire-prevention and fire-safety ideas and programs.

The Fire Academy conducted 24 courses, which were attended by 461 students. Late in the academic year, the Academy embarked on a training and education system comprising several programs that addressed the training needs of specific components within the service. In an effort to devote maximum resources to course development, classroom sessions were adjusted to meet actual existing demands. The start-up date for the Professional Fire Service Personnel Training and Education Program and the Volunteer Fire Fighter Certification Program was 1 APR 86.

The Edukit Program, designed to assist the local training officer to deliver training to fire-

fighters, remained active, with the objective of producing six Edukits each year.

The theatre and projectionist provisions in Part 3 of the *Fire Services Act* were repealed on 1 JAN 86, meaning that the province no longer examines and licenses motion picture theatre projectionists; likewise, motion picture theatres are no longer licensed. As a result of the repeal, the *Kinematograph, Moving-picture Theatre, Projectionist, and Film Regulations*, which also regulate theatre construction and use, were also repealed. The changes, however, do not affect standards for the construction, use, and occupancy of theatres. Construction is now regulated as assembly occupancies by the *Building Regulations* of B.C., which are enforced by local building authorities; the use and occupancy is regulated by the B.C. *Fire Code Regulation*.

The first National Fire Drill in Canada was held 9 OCT 85. It was estimated that more than half of all families in B.C. with elementary school children practised their home fire escape plan by evacuating their houses. Telephone surveys by fire departments after the drill indicated that about three out of four British Columbians were aware of the drill and its purpose. Almost everyone surveyed supported the drill and agreed it should be repeated annually. The drill was sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited, and was strongly supported by schools, local businesses, and the media with generous coverage of promotional events and donation of space and air time for public service announcements. Various activities were organized by fire departments throughout the province to publicize the drill, including Media Training Day, Bucket Brigade, and displays and demonstrations of firefighting methods and equipment. The key-component of the program was a "Plan To Get Out Alive" worksheet distributed to elementary school children. The worksheet instructed families with easy-to-understand directions on how to plan escape routes from their homes. It also encouraged people to have smoke alarms installed at home and to test them regularly.

Pursuant to the *Fire Services Act* which establishes a 1-per-cent tax on property insurance premiums, the government received revenue in the amount of $5 million in 1985.

Public Legal Services

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$13,294,440	$12,000,000
Staff	—	—

Public legal services in the form of legal aid and public education, information, and advice about the law are provided by the Legal Services Society of B.C. (*Legal Services Society Act*). The Society is guided by a 14-member board of directors, half appointed by the Attorney General and half by the Law Society of B.C.

The Society funds a number of agencies to provide legal services to people who cannot afford a lawyer. Services are provided by staff lawyers and lawyers in private practice on a referral basis.

An additional legal aid service is provided to native people through the four community law offices located in native communities and four information counsellors in Native Friendship Centres.

The Society also provides a number of education and information programs for the public, including the Schools Program, the Public Legal Education Program, and the Library Services Program.

Although the Legal Services Society reports directly to the legislature through the Attorney General, it liaises administratively through the Policy Planning Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The provincial government reaffirmed the essential nature of the services delivered by the Society under the mandate of the *Legal Services Society Act*. The Attorney General's Task Force report in August, 1984, the federal Evaluation Report on Legal Aid in B.C. in June, 1984, and the Canadian Bar Association National Legal Aid report in 1985 have all defined these services as essential and in need of expansion to meet minimum needs.

Regulatory Services

The Society's major sources of support continue to be direct funding from the provincial government and the Law Foundation. The province receives support for its expenditures through cost-sharing arrangements from the federal government. In 1985-86, however, significant additional resources were required. The City of Vancouver, through a bonusing-arrangement with a property developer, enabled the Society to receive free office space for 15 years for its administration and resource centre facilities, thereby saving the Society several million dollars in expenditures. The Society received a federal Department of Justice grant to pilot a paralegal project to increase access to legal services in the Fort Nelson area.

In addition, provincial legislation created the Real Estate Foundation to receive the interest income on trust accounts of real estate agents which, among other things, will provide grants for public legal education projects. Under a special funding contract with the Human Rights Council, the Society provided representation to qualifying individuals for all human rights complaints, hearings, and appeals. A contract between the Society and the Ministry of Attorney General also provided funding for court-directed counsel under the *Young Offenders Act*.

Under the leadership of the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society, the legal profession widened and strengthened its support and contribution to public legal services and committed itself to a major *pro bono* (good will) effort in urgent civil and administrative law cases until 1987. Over 800 lawyers throughout the province provided services without fees to individuals who were eligible for legal aid.

The Society received 70,437 applications for legal aid in 1985-86. Of these, 31,816 were for criminal matters, 18,404 were for family matters, and 20,217 were for other civil law matters.

Income from grants, interest, legal costs recovered from clients, publications, and miscellaneous totalled $17,597,652.

Law Reform

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$343,508	$199,098
Staff	5	6

The B.C. Law Reform Commission reviews all the law in the province, including statute law, common law, and judicial decisions, with a view to its systematic development and reform. This includes codification, elimination of anomalies, repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments, reduction in number of separate enactments, and the general simplification and modernization of the law (*Law Reform Commission Act*).

The Commission selects discrete legal topics for study and examination in order to develop recommendations for new legislation or the amendment or repeal of existing legislation.

Although the Law Reform Commission reports directly to the Attorney General, it liaises administratively through the Policy Planning Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The Law Reform Commission submitted the following final reports:

Performance Under Protest

The Domicile of a Minor

Defamation

Personal Liability Under a Mortgage or Agreement for Sale

Mortgages of Land: The Priority of Further Advances

The Commission also circulated three working papers which have not yet resulted in final reports:

The Court Order Interest Act

Shared Liability

Spousal Agreements

The accelerated pace at which the Law Reform Commission recommendations are adopted and implemented by the legislature continued in 1985-86. Legislation was passed

to carry out recommendations made in the following Commission reports:

Report on Arbitration

Minor Report on Standing of a Common Law Spouse to Apply Under the Family Compensation Act

Report on Interpersonal Immunity in Tort

Report on Breach of Promise of Marriage

Report on Intentional Interference with Domestic Relations

Minor (interim) Report on the Land (Wife Protection) Act

Funding for the Commission was provided jointly by government and the Law Foundation of B.C. The Foundation provided a grant of $148,000 to help the Commission sustain its operations during the year.

Criminal Injury Compensation

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$3,631,750	$1,050,000
Staff	—	—

In certain cases when a person is killed or injured as a result of a crime, he or his family may be entitled to compensation from the Criminal Injury Section of the Workers' Compensation Board. Compensation may be provided when a person is killed or injured as a result of the commission of any one of 44 criminal offences set out in the schedule of the *Criminal Injury Compensation Act*, or where the injury or death resulted from:

— the lawful arrest or attempt to arrest an offender or suspected offender, or assisting a peace officer in making or attempting to make an arrest; or

— the lawful prevention or attempt to prevent the commission of a criminal offence or suspected offence, or assisting a peace officer in preventing or attempting to prevent the commission of such offence or suspected offence.

The *Criminal Injury Compensation Act* is administered by the Workers' Compensation Board.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

There were 1,345 applications for compensation filed during the year. This represented an increase of approximately 13 per cent over the number of applications (1,193) filed in the previous year. The amount paid to victims and their dependents was $3,294,202.

There is a 10-cents-per-capita contribution from the federal government, which resulted in $289,250 for the fiscal year.

Review of Persons Mentally Unfit to Stand Trial

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$149,152	$152,463
Staff	2	2

The Order-in-Council Patients Review Board reviews the circumstances of persons in B.C. who have been found not guilty of an offence on account of insanity or unfit to stand trial by the courts. In the latter case, the Board ensures that these persons are returned to stand trial if and when their mental condition permits. For those found not guilty on account of insanity, the Board is responsible for determining what steps, if any, can be taken to ensure the gradual return of these persons to the community, and to make recommendations to Cabinet in all such cases.

The Board is constituted by virtue of appointments made by the Attorney General and, while not technically operated under the provisions of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, acts in all cases as if it were so constituted. The courts have determined the powers and responsibilities of the Board in rulings over the last 10 years.

Although the chairman of the Board reports directly to the Attorney General, his office is administered by the Criminal Justice Branch.

Regulatory Services

Significant Activities in 1985-86

The Board made 213 reviews with corresponding recommendations in 1985-86 (compared to 220 in the previous year).

Parole

	1985-86	1984-85
Budget	$541,266	$470,355
Staff	6	5

The B.C. Board of Parole was established in 1949 under the *Prisons and Reformatories Act* to review applications for parole from young offenders serving definite/indeterminate sentences. Since 1980, however, the Board has operated under provisions of the *Parole Act* (Canada) to review applications for parole from any inmates incarcerated in provincial correctional centres.

Parole is a procedure whereby an inmate who qualifies by statutory criteria may be released after serving one third of his term of imprisonment. When such a release is authorized, a parolee must serve the balance of his sentence under conditions prescribed by the Parole Board, including supervision.

Decisions of whether to grant or deny parole are based on criteria set out in the *Parole Act*, mainly relating to the benefit of incarceration, the rehabilitation opportunities upon release, and the protection of society. Decisions to grant, deny, or revoke parole are made by a panel of two members, except in a case of a split decision, in which case an additional vote is cast by a third member. Decisions to temporarily suspend parole are made by a single member subject to review by the Board, unless parole is reinstated within a 15-day period.

Although the chairman of the Board reports directly to the Attorney General, the Board reports administratively through the Corrections Branch.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

Highlights of the year include the production of a video tape, *"The Odds are in Your Favor,"* aimed at supplementing information available to inmates on how to apply for parole and prepare for their appearance before the Board. Board staff are now regularly included in the police recruit training program at the Justice Institute in Vancouver.

The Board made a submission to the Canadian Correctional Law Review regarding legislative reform and to the federal ("Nielsen") task force on justice regarding the management of correctional programs in Canada.

Following lengthy negotiations with the Corrections Branch, a new policy agreement was reached concerning the relationship between parole and temporary absence in order to reduce the duplication, competition, and confusion that existed between these two programs. In addition, the Board implemented a day-parole policy aimed essentially at those inmates who have unequal access to graduated release through community-based residential programs.

The policy on disclosure to inmates of the information used by the Board in its review of parole applications was concluded and put into effect in January, 1986. The disclosure is administered by the Corrections Branch staff on behalf of the Board, and consists of advance perusal of all documents except those designated as confidential.

The Board's work increased this year, after having stabilized last year. The Board conducted 1,766 reviews, resulting in 834 grants of parole, 631 denials, and 156 revocations.

The remaining 145 reviews resulted in deferrals or other decisions. When all interim decisions are eliminated, the grant rate for the year was 56.9 per cent, a 6.6-per-cent decrease from the previous year. The rate of suspensions and revocations of parole increased this year, indicating a generally more cautious decision-making attitude on the part of the Board.

The Board continued to benefit from its involvement with other parole boards in Canada through the Canadian Association of Paroling Authorities. A major accomplishment during the year was a submission to the Canadian Sentencing Commission which will have significant impact on the entire administration of justice. The Association also made a second submission to the Correctional Law Review Project and recommendations pertaining to two bills that are currently before the Canadian Parliament.

Special Services

Special Services

Women's Programs

Under the direction of the Ministry adviser, who reports to the Deputy Attorney General and the Commissioner of Corrections, Women's Programs is responsible for:

- — preparing and carrying out a Ministry action plan consistent with the objectives of the Office of the Deputy Minister, Women's Programs (Ministry of Labor);
- — providing information and policy advice and assistance to the Executive Committee;
- — acting as a contact-point for staff within the Ministry and relevant community organizations concerning women's programs' activities; and
- — assisting with the coordinated efforts of other ministries as required.

The Ministry action plan includes three main initiatives:

- — those primarily of concern to female employees (career advancement, part-time work, sexual harassment, and day care);
- — those in the justice system that are of concern to women (family violence, sexual assault, pornography, prostitution, and family law); and
- — those of concern to female offenders.

Significant Activities in 1985-86

In its third year of operation, Women's Programs gave primary attention to issues of concern to female employees. Information sessions dealing with sexual harrassment were held at many regular staff meetings and related resource kits were made available. A policy paper on part-time work and job-sharing was prepared. A policy paper on equity employment for women was approved after extensive circulation and discussion. Each branch is now developing and carrying out its own equity action plan. The course, "*Taking Charge of Your Career*," was offered 10 times and a plan was developed to expand this training program in the next fiscal year.

Justice-system issues, particularly those of wife assault and sexual assault, continued to be the responsibility of the appropriate branches of the Ministry, with Women's Programs maintaining a consultative relationship. Advice was also provided on the issues of pornography and enforcement of family maintenance payments.

On issues affecting female offenders, Women's Programs continued to help with the federal government's initiative, Women In Conflict With The Law. The Corrections Branch Women's Programs' Advisory Committee addressed a number of issues relevant to female offenders, including adults and juveniles.

Because of the unique advisory role of Women's Programs, an effective communications network was essential. Each branch of the Ministry added to an existing employees' responsibility a role as adviser for Women's Programs, with Court Services and Corrections Branch each having regional advisers as well. Regular liaison was maintained with the Deputy Minister, Women's Programs, and, through her office, with other ministry advisers.

The work of Women's Programs was carried out using existing Ministry resources. This advisory function helped to ensure that Ministry activities properly reflected the need for equal opportunity for women employees and the necessary consideration of the emerging justice-system issues that primarily affect women.

Justice Institute

The Justice Institute of British Columbia is a post-secondary training institution for people working within the fields of justice, emergency health, and public safety. Programs, courses of instruction, and services are provided to the Corrections Branch, Court Services Branch, Police Services Branch, and Fire Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Attorney General, and the Emergency Health Services Commission of B.C. Services are also provided to other components of the justice and public safety system, other government ministries, and private agencies and community groups engaged in justice or public safety activities. The Institute is funded jointly by the ministries of Health and Attorney General.

Special Services

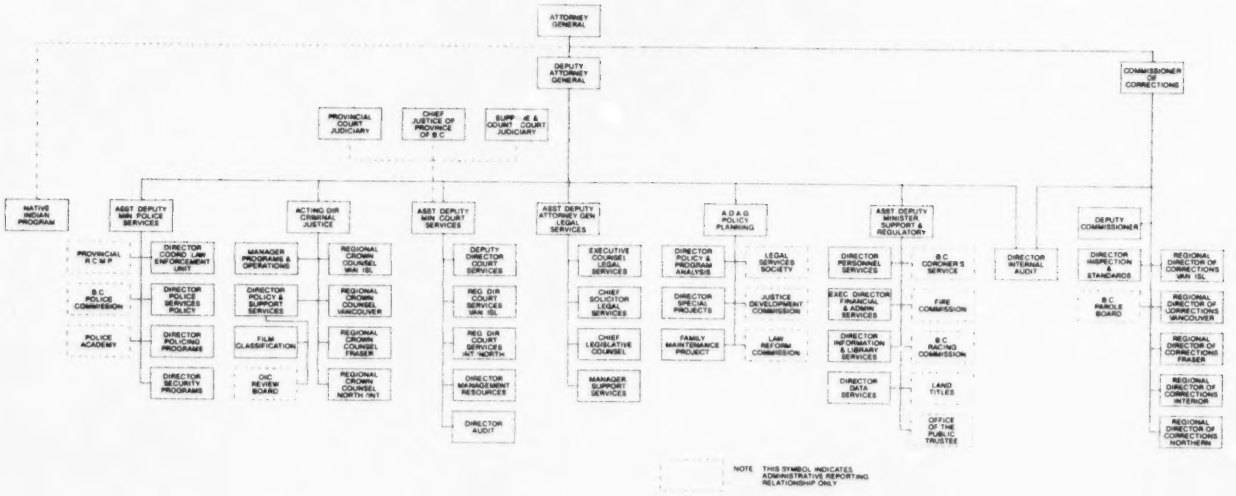
Significant Activities in 1985-86

The Police Academy trained the largest block of recruits since the Institute began in 1978. A class of 67 recruits were trained, mainly to meet the added police requirements of *Expo 86*.

The Corrections Academy also experienced greater demands for training and support services for Branch staff during the year, with a number of new and innovative courses being added to their curriculum.

The Justice Institute produces a separate annual report.

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
ORGANIZATION CHART



March 31, 1986

Appendix B

ESTIMATES

	Estimates $	1984/85 Staff	Estimates $	1985/86 Staff
Minister's Office	200,506	7.0	223,385	5.0
Administration and Support Services	12,218,329	125.5	14,275,404	124.5
Superior and County Court Judiciary	2,277,270	67.5	3,043,168	65.0
Provincial Court Judiciary	10,719,283	143.0	11,670,738	137.0
Police Services	77,195,501	111.0	78,873,285	105.0
Court Services	73,734,800	1,182.6	74,867,765	1,170.0
Corrections Branch	106,580,344	2,124.8	114,872,944	2,130.0
Legal Services to Governmment	8,701,165	90.0	8,476,509	86.0
Criminal Justice Branch	15,860,120	234.5	16,289,599	189.5
Statutory Services, Boards, Commissions				
• Legal Services Society	12,000,000	—	13,294,440	—
• Law Reform Commission	199,098	6.0	343,508	5.0
• Coroners Services	3,374,695	32.0	4,067,586	31.2
• Public Trustee (Net Recoveries)	2,721,305	90.0	3,853,556	88.3
• Fire Commission	2,079,659	44.0	2,709,747	43.0
• B.C. Racing Commission	10	—	10	15.0
• Land Titles	9,748,271	290.0	14,613,005	285.0
• Film Classification	213,799	5.0	277,047	5.0
• Order-in-Council Patients Review Board	152,463	2.0	149,152	2.0
• Criminal Injury Compensation Act	1,050,000	—	3,631,750	—
• B.C. Parole Board	470,355	5.0	541,266	6.0
• Crown Proceeding Act	1,425,000	—	1,267,187	—
• Building Occupancy Charges (Statutory Boards)	3,265,848	—	NIL	—
TOTAL	344,187,821	4,559.9	367,341,051	4,492.5

Appendix C

SUMMARY OF FIRE LOSSES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1985

In 1985, British Columbia had the lowest number of fire deaths in 32 years. Sixty persons died and 398 were injured as a result of 8,285 fires in 1985, causing total dollar-loss of $131,932,474. The losses for the last seven years have been as follows:

Year	Number of Fires	$ Loss (millions)	$ Loss (Millions) Adjusted for Inflation to 1981 Constant $	Number Injured	Number Dead
1985	8,285	131.9	105.4	398	60
1984	7,237	108.9	89.8	396	79
1983	7,724	131.7	112.9	404	83
1982	7,623	157.3	142.4	375	73
1981	7,021	116.0	116.0	244	76
1980	7,661	108.4	123.9	305	89
1979	7,656	105.9	132.4	444	125

The appreciable increase in the number of fires was largely due to better reporting by insurance companies brought about by the introduction of a special Insurance Fire Report form. The average loss per fire for the province in 1985 was $15,924 and the per capita loss was $45.61. There was an average of 2.86 fires for every 1,000 persons in British Columbia.

Fire Fatalities

Thirty-seven men, 19 women, and four children lost their lives as a result of fire in 1985. Four of these 60 deaths occurred on Indian reserves;

— 16 were over 60 years of age;

— three of the four children who died were 10 years old or younger;

— 19 resulted from careless smoking (in 1984, 32 people died from fires resulting from careless smoking);

— at least 16 persons who died were impaired by alcohol, drugs, or medication; and

— five persons who died from fire were asleep at the time of the fire.

Residential Fires

Thirty-four per cent of fires were in one- and two-family dwellings, resulting in a total loss of $49.7 million. A further 7 per cent of the fires were in apartment buildings with a loss of $8.3 million. These two residential categories accounted for 41 per cent of the total number of fires and 44 per cent of the total 1985 fire losses in the province.

Fifty-eight of the 60 fire fatalities, or 97 per cent, occurred in residential fires, including hotels and mobile homes. Nineteen of the 41 fire deaths in one- or two-family dwellings, and 10 of the 12 fire deaths in apartment buildings, occurred between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The fire experience in one- and two-family dwellings and apartment buildings indicates significant differences between the two groups. (*See* chart below; asterisks highlight differences.)

Comparison of One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Apartment Fire Incidents

	1- and 2-Family	Apartment Building
Total number of fires in property group	2,848	554
Cooking Fires	630	121
As a percentage of all fires in property group	22.1%	21.8%
As a percentage of total $ loss in property group	25.6%	14.1%
No. of fatalities over total in property group	4/41	0/12
Heating Equipment Fires	803	18
As a percentage of all fires in property group	28.1%	3.2%*
As a percentage of total $ loss in property group	25.6%	1.8%*
No. of fatalities over total in property group	12/41	0/12*
Smokers Material Fires	217	155
As a percentage of all fires in property group	7.6%	27.9%*
As a percentage of total $ loss in property group	7.2%	16.7%*
No. of fatalities over total property group	13/41	5/12*
Arson Fires	226	102
As a percentage of all fires in property group	7.9%	18.4%*
As a percentage of total $ loss in property group	12.7%	15.1%
No. of fatalities over total in property group	1/41	0/12

Heating equipment fires accounted for more than 28 per cent of the fires in one- and two-family dwellings, but only 3.2 per cent in apartment building fires.

Of all **heating equipment** fires in one- and two-family dwellings, more than 76 per cent were related to the use of solid-fuel. The igniting objects (sources of ignition) for these solid-fuel fires were:

Igniting Object	Fires	Injuries	Dead	$ Loss
Central heating unit	20	0	0	690,695
Space heater	195	4	1	1,733,688
Fireplace	193	5	0	1,789,050
Masonry chimney	143	1	1	1,353,813
Factory-built metal chimney	101	6	6	2,392,531
Flue connector	33	3	1	748,699
Heating equipment — other	15	0	0	355,608
1985 Total	610	19	9	9,064,084
1984 Total (for comparison)	420	9	2	5,633,092

The largest life-loss fire last year, in which six people lost their lives, was caused by an improperly installed venting system serving a solid-fueled stove. The venting system consisted of a single-wall stove pipe that went all the way through the ceiling up to a few inches below the roof. At that point, it connected to a single 18"-long section of insulated metal chimney (A type). Clearances to combustibles at the ceiling and roof levels were believed to be insufficient.

Smokers materials accounted for about 7.6 per cent of one- and two-family dwelling fires but 27.9% per cent for apartment fires.

The rate of arson in apartment buildings was more than twice that in one- and two-family dwellings.

Educational Institutions

There were 68 fires in educational institutions in 1985 resulting in a loss of $4,744,228. Until last year, the number of fires in educational institutions had been reducing since 1979. (*See* table below.)

Year	Number	$ loss (million)	$ loss (millions) Adjusted by C.P.I.
1985	68	4.7	3.8
1984	56	0.7	0.6
1983	63	3.9	3.3
1982	77	3.6	3.3
1981	84	1.8	1.8
1980	94	8.3	9.5
1979	125	9.3	11.6

Fifty-nine per cent of the fires in educational institutions were incendiary in nature. This high percentage is consistent with previous years.

Automobile Fires

There were 2,113 automobile fires in British Columbia in 1985. These fires accounted for 26 per cent of the number of fires in 1985 causing a loss of about $3.7 million.

Large Dollar-Loss Fires

There were 27 fires in which the individual losses exceeded $500,000 each. Although they accounted for one third of 1.0 per cent of the total fires, they were responsible for $26.4 million, constituting 20 per cent of the province's annual dollar losses. Four of the fires in this large-loss category were a result of arson or suspected arson and caused a loss of $4.1 million.

Arson

Out of the total 8,285 (14.5 per cent) fires in 1985, 1,201 were deliberately set, causing a loss of $22 million (16 per cent of dollar losses). In 1984, 1,274, or 17.6 per cent of total fires, were set and caused a loss of $22 million (20 per cent of dollar loss).

The number of arson fires in 1985 was the lowest since 1973 when there were 1,092 arson fires. The percentage of arson fires over the total number of fires peaked in 1976 at 23.3 per cent.

Of the 1,201 (31 per cent) arson incidents, 376 were classified as vandalism or mischief. This category has historically accounted for the bulk of arson incidents. A breakdown of the arson incidents is as follows:

Act or Omission	Incidents	Injured	Dead	$ Loss
Arson for financial gain	34	0	1	955,997
Arson as a cover-up crime	137	6	0	2,961,146
Arson — political/religious motive	8	0	0	340,412
Arson for revenge, spite	22	3	0	678,067
Arson — mental disorder, suicide	22	1	0	435,834
Arson — vandalism, mischief	376	12	0	4,834,544
Arson — intimidation	2	0	0	2,144
Arson — motive unknown	258	17	0	4,713,639
Suspected Arson — motive unknown	342	16	2	6,867,694
	1,201	55	3	21,789,477

The frequency of arson is heaviest in the urban areas: 28 per cent of fires in Vancouver (city) were arson compared to about 10 per cent in the Interior and Northern regions of the province.

Seventy-six adults and 45 juveniles were charged in arson-related incidents in 1985, according to statistics compiled by the Ministry of Attorney General.

COURT ACTIVITY, 1985

Provincial Court activity in 1985 followed normal monthly fluctuations, except in December when new cases dropped 12 per cent from the total for December of the previous year. *Criminal Code* and federal statute cases were down 6 per cent from the previous fiscal year, and the number of new provincial traffic cases were down 15 per cent. Criminal cases pending at the end of the fiscal year decreased almost 5 per cent from the previous year. The percentage of cases pending over three months increased by 3 per cent from the end of the previous fiscal year.

Family Court new cases were up 10 per cent from the previous year, with *Family and Child Services Act* cases showing the largest increase of 18 per cent.

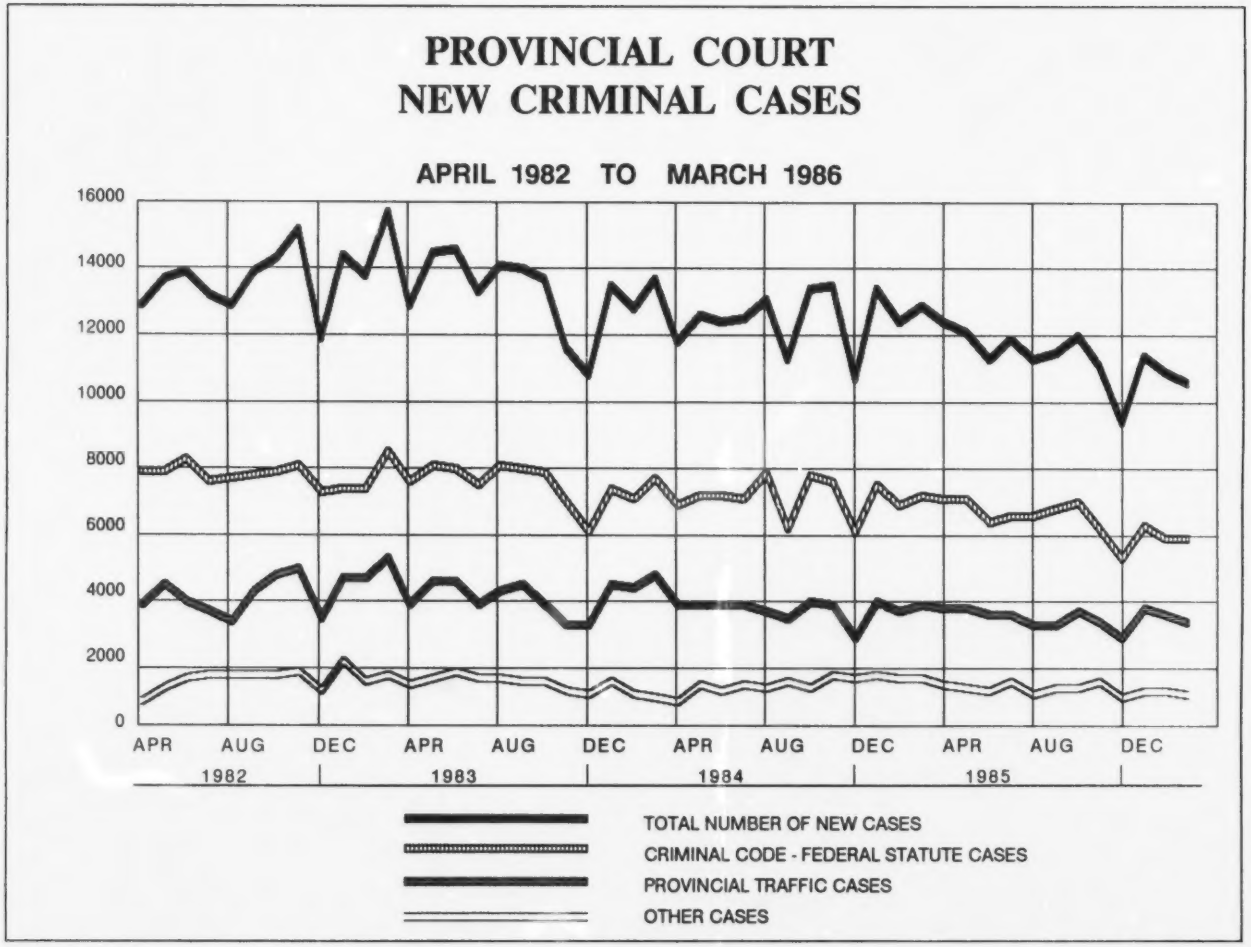
Youth Court cases included 17-year-olds for the first time as a result of the new *Young Offenders Act*, but new cases increased only slightly from the previous year.

New Small Claim Court cases remained virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Superior Court activity was up in criminal, divorce, adoption, and bankruptcy cases, but down slightly in civil and probate (proving of wills) areas. Criminal cases were up 4 per cent from the previous year, but up 30 per cent since 1981. Bankruptcy cases were up 3 per cent from the previous year, but up 177 per cent from 1981.

Civil cases were down 1.0 per cent from the previous year, but still up 15 per cent from the 1981 total. Many of the trials resulting from the large increase in civil filings in 1983 and 1984 were being scheduled for hearing during the 1986-87 fiscal year.

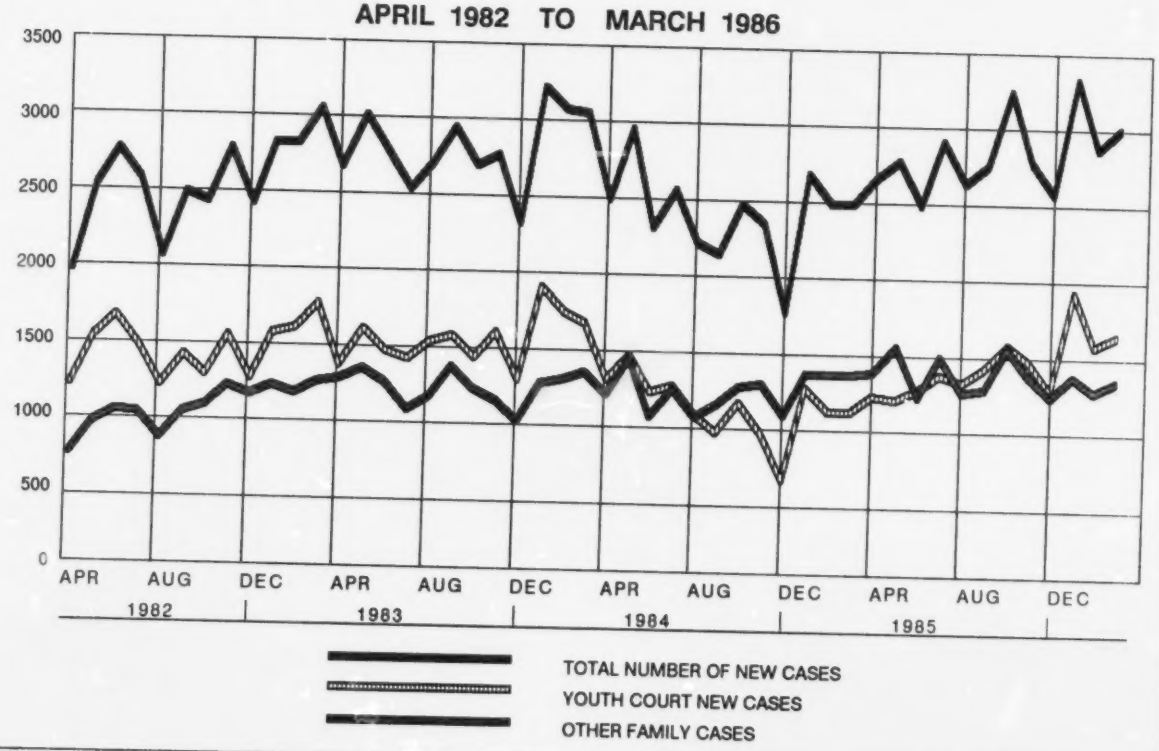
Superior Court	1985 vs. 1984
New criminal cases	up 4%
New civil cases	down 1%
Divorce	up 3%
Probate	down 2%
Adoption	up 1%
Bankruptcy	up 3%



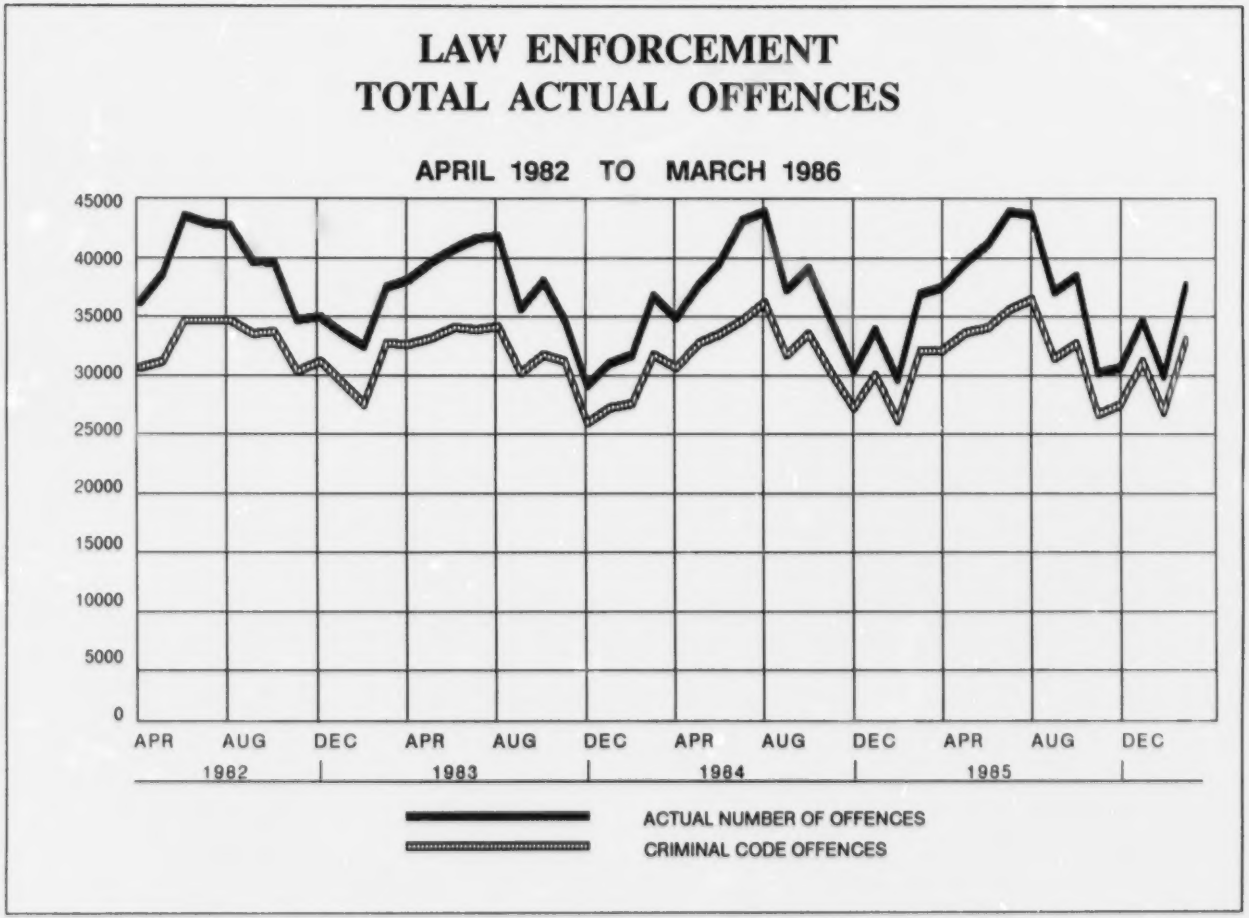
This graph records the volume of new adult criminal cases coming to the attention of the Provincial Court on a monthly basis for the fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86. The total number of new cases has been decreasing over the past three fiscal years.

In the 1985-86 fiscal year, the total number of new cases was 136,639, a decrease of 8.9 per cent from the 1984-85 fiscal year. *Criminal Code* - Federal Statute cases accounted for 77,709 of the total number of new cases; Provincial Traffic cases for 42,749; and other cases for 16,181.

PROVINCIAL COURT
FAMILY AND YOUTH COURT NEW CASES

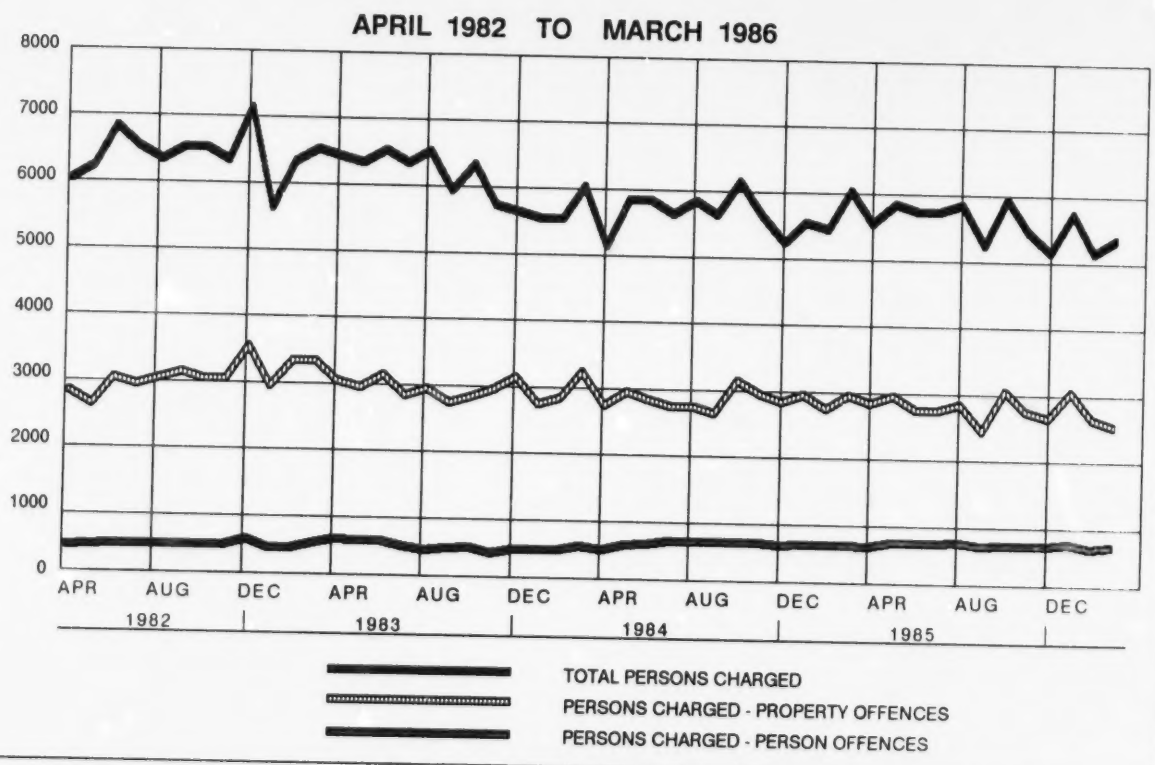


This graph records the volume of new Family and Youth Court cases coming to the attention of the Provincial Court for fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86. The total number of new cases has increased each fiscal year, except in 1984-85 when the number of new Youth Court cases decreased substantially. This was likely due to the introduction of the *Young Offenders Act* in April, 1984. The total number of new cases in the 1985-86 fiscal year was 34,298, an increase of 17.5 per cent over the 1984-85 fiscal year, but comparable to 1983-84. The number of new Youth Court cases was 17,688, an increase of 26.3 per cent and the number of Family Court cases was 16,610, an increase of 9.4 per cent.

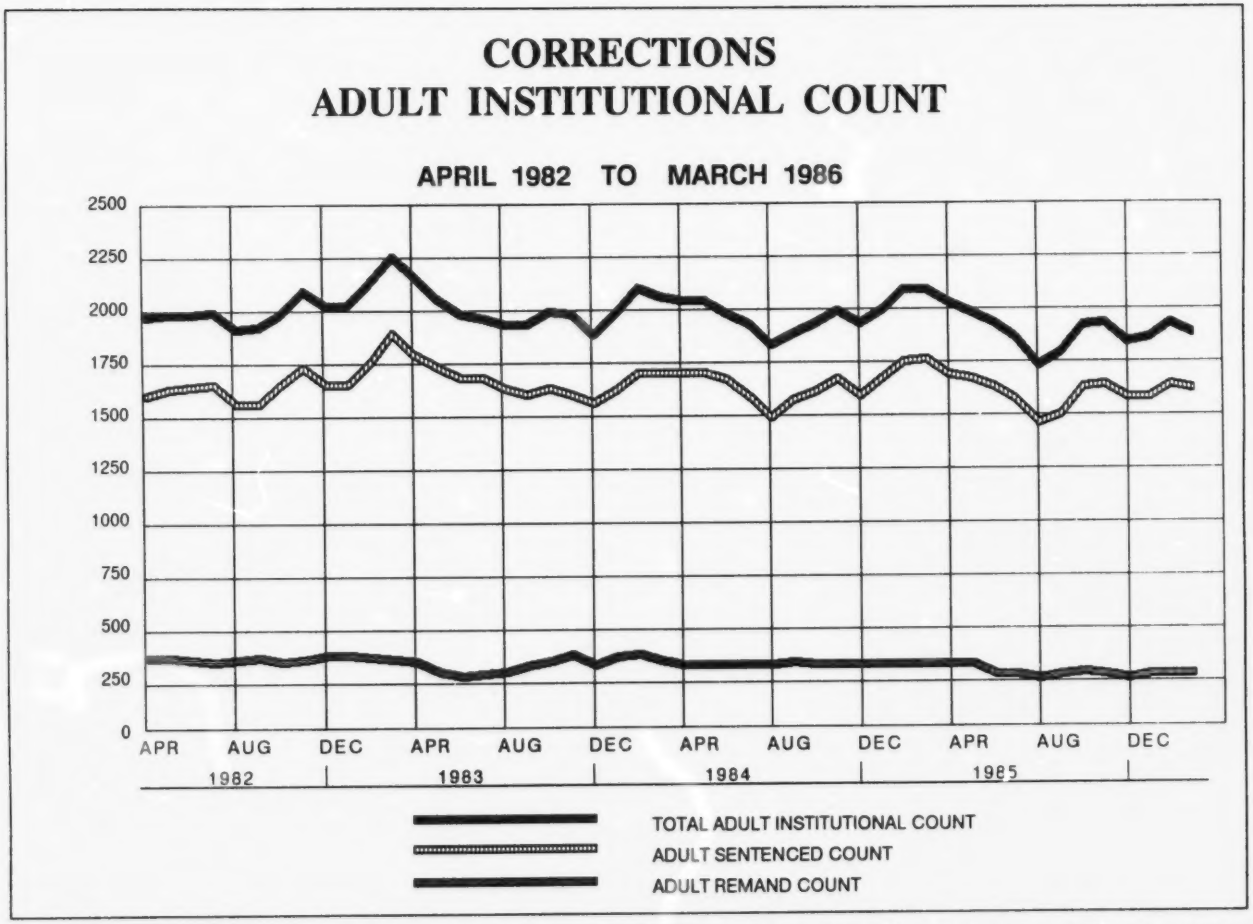


This graph records the total number of actual offences reported on a monthly basis by RCMP and independent municipal police forces for fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86. The graph shows seasonal variation with lower volumes reported in the winter months and higher volumes reported in the summer months. The total volume of offences reported in the 1985-86 fiscal year was 446,108. This is virtually unchanged from the 1984-85 fiscal year. The sub-category in the graph shows the number of *Criminal Code* offences, excluding driving offences. In the 1985-86 fiscal year, the total number of *Criminal Code* offences was 383,151.

LAW ENFORCEMENT
TOTAL PERSONS CHARGED

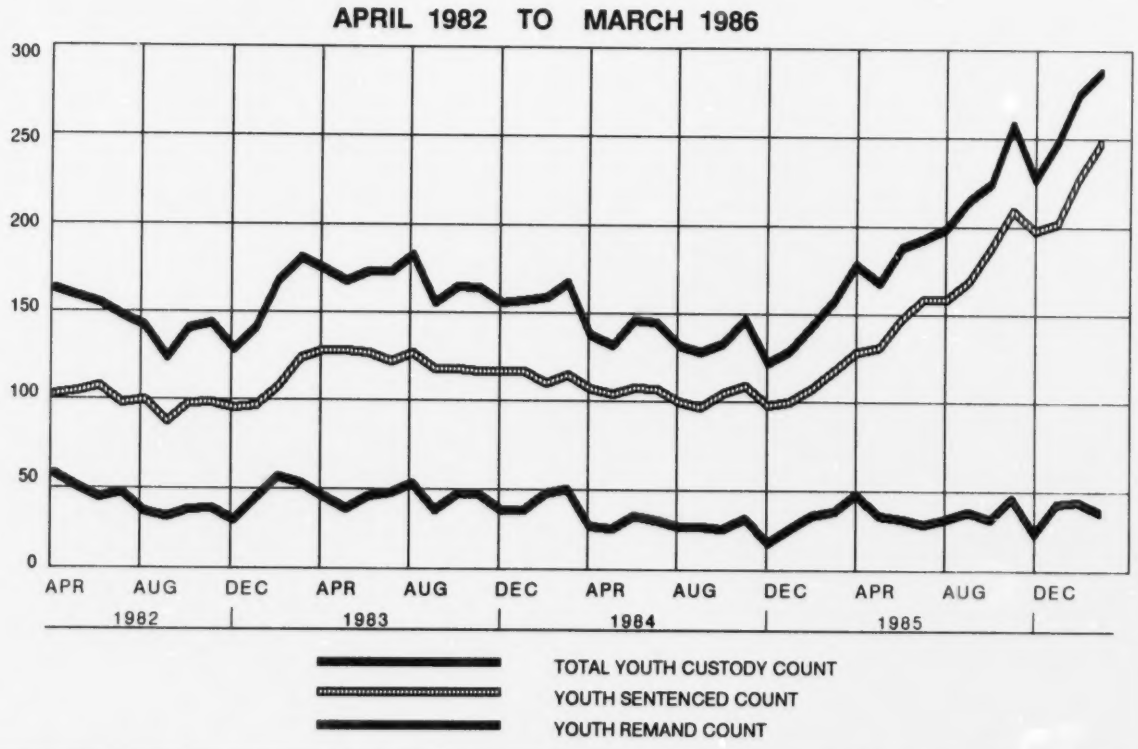


This graph records the total number of persons against whom police recommended that charges be laid on a monthly basis for fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86, excluding driving offences. The total number of persons charged has been decreasing over the past three fiscal years. In the 1985-86 fiscal year, the total number of persons charged was 67,460, a decrease of 1.5 per cent from the 1984-85 fiscal year. The number of persons charged with property offences decreased by 1.5 per cent to 34,070 and the number of persons charged with offences against others was 9,557, an increase of 8.5 per cent.



This graph records the average number of persons held in adult institutions on a monthly basis for fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86. The yearly average total count has been decreasing slightly over the past three fiscal years. In the 1985-86 fiscal year, there was an average of 1,907 persons per month in institutions, a decrease of 4.4 per cent from the 1984-85 fiscal year. Of this average, 1,606 were on sentenced status and 301 on remand status.

CORRECTIONS
YOUTH CUSTODY COUNT



This graph records the average number of youths in institutions on a monthly basis for fiscal years 1982-83 to 1985-86. The yearly average total count has increased each fiscal year except in 1984-85 when the count decreased. In the 1985-86 fiscal year, there was an average of 222 youths in custody each month, an increase of 60.9 per cent over the 1984-85 fiscal year. Of this average, 183 were sentenced to open and secure institutions, and 39 were on remand status. The increases could be partly attributable to the age of increase from 17 to 18 years in April, 1985, under the *Young Offenders Act*.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS, 1985-86

Audio-Visual

Auxiliary Police videotape (new)
B.C. Adult Correctional Facilities, 1985, videotape (new)

Publications

Correctional Centre Rules and Regulations (booklet revision)
Jury Duty (brochure revision)
Are You Facing Marital Separation? (brochure revision)
Ministry of Attorney General (brochure revision)
Lakeview Open Custody Centre (brochure revision, reprint)
Victoria Youth Detention Centre (brochure revision, reprint)
Willingdon Youth Detention Centre (brochure revision, reprint)
Holly Open Custody Centre (new brochure, reprint)
Boulder Bay Youth Detention Centre (new brochure, reprint)
Centre Creek Camp (brochure revision, reprint)
Confidentiality and The Family Court Counsellor (brochure revision)
Correctional Officer (brochure revision)
Corrections Branch Beliefs, Goals, and Strategies (booklet revision)
A Suitable Site for International Commercial Arbitration: Vancouver, B.C. (new brochure)
Invitation to Opening of International Commercial Arbitration Centre (new brochure)
Workers' Compensation Board Coverage Under O.I.C. No. 350, Community Service Programs (new brochure)
Separation — Stages of Emotional Adjustment (new brochure)
Guardianship — A Guide for Parents (new brochure)
Custody, Access, and Guardianship (new brochure)
The Police & The Family Court Counsellor (new brochure)
Is It My Fault? (Parents' Separation) (new brochure)
Common Law Relationships (new brochure, reprint)
Small Claims Court Trial (new booklet)
Small Claims Court — Some Questions and Answers (new booklet)
Questions & Answers: Adult Probation (brochure revision)
Terrace Community Correctional Centre (new brochure)
The Probation Officer (brochure revision)
Juvie: A Guide to Victoria Youth Detention Centre (brochure revision)
Fact Sheet on Complaints (Citizen Police-Complaints) (brochure revision)
B.C. Adult Correctional Facilities, 1985: Classification and Sentence Management (new booklet)
Ministry of Attorney General 1983-84 Annual Report
Ministry of Attorney General 1984-85 Annual Report
Corrections Branch 1983-84 Annual Report
Corrections Branch 1984-85 Annual Report

DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL

September, 1986

Please note:
The correct mailing address for all Victoria offices of the Ministry of Attorney General is as follows:

Ministry of Attorney General
(Branch, Division, or Section)
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Honourable Brian R. D. Smith, Q.C.
Room 232
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1866

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
E. N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C.
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-5211

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Deputy Attorney General
E. N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C.

Commissioner of Corrections,
Corrections Branch
Bernard G. Robinson

Assistant Deputy Minister,
Court Services Branch
A. K. B. Sheridan

Assistant Deputy Attorney General,
Criminal Justice Branch
Dennis T. R. Murray

Assistant Deputy Attorney General,
Legal Services Branch
E. Robert A. Edwards, Q.C.

Assistant Deputy Attorney General,
Policy Planning Branch
Robert D. Adamson

Assistant Deputy Minister,
Police Services Branch
Robin Bourne

Assistant Deputy Minister,
Support Services Branch
Frank A. Rhodes

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

Director
Ken Horodyski
3rd Floor,
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1712

CORRECTIONS BRANCH

Commissioner of Corrections
Bernard G. Robinson
4th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-5354

Deputy Commissioner of
Corrections
Dave Bahr
4th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-5363

Director of Inspections
and Standards
Vince Cain
4th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-5948

REGION 1
Regional Director
J. B. Graham
Vancouver Island Region
1st Floor, Courthouse
851 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1581

REGION 2
Regional Director
E. W. Harrison
Vancouver Region
401-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E6
Tel: 660-2880

REGION 3
Regional Director
A. E. Neufeld
Fraser Region
205-2580 Cedar Park Place
Clearbrook, B.C.
V2T 3S5
Tel: 852-5333

REGION 4
Regional Director
W. F. Foster
Interior Region
101-455 Columbia Street
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 6K4
Tel: 828-4050

REGION 5
Regional Director
B. G. Stobbe
Northern Region
4th Floor, Plaza 400
1011 Fourth Avenue
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 3H9
Tel: 565-6050

COURT SERVICES BRANCH

Assistant Deputy Minister
A.K.B. Sheridan
Court Services Headquarters
Law Courts, 6th Floor
850 Burdett Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1521

Management Resources
Director
D. E. Kent
Court Services Headquarters
Law Courts, 6th Floor
850 Burdett Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1521

REGION 1
Regional Director
C. R. Brown
851 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1496

REGION 2/3
Deputy Director
S. C. Rumsey
Law Courts
800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E1
Tel: 660-2304

REGION 4/5
Regional Director
D. J. Kidd
455 Columbia Street
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 6K4
Tel: 828-4335

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

Assistant Deputy
Attorney General
Dennis T. R. Murray
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4481

Policy & Support Services
Director
Hal N. Yacowar
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4481

Administrative Officer
Ray Nelson
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4481

Manager of Programs
and Operations
Lynn A. Langford
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4481

REGIONAL CROWN COUNSEL

REGION 1
Regional Crown Counsel
Ernest J. Quantz
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4481

REGION 2
Regional Crown Counsel
Robert H. Wright
Ste. 307-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E6
Tel: 660-4100

REGION 3
Regional Crown Counsel
William F. Stewart
The Law Courts
Begbie Square
Carnarvon Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 1C9
Tel: 660-8700

REGION 4
Regional Crown Counsel
Peter W. Ewert
Plaza 400-4th Floor
1011 4th Avenue
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 3H9
Tel: 565-6090

LEGAL SERVICES BRANCH

Management Committee

Assistant Deputy
Attorney General
E. R. A. Edwards, Q.C.
5th Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Executive Counsel
Norman J. Prelypchan
4th Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Chief Solicitor
Jakob S. de Villiers, Q.C.
Solicitors Division
3rd Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Manager
Support Services
Raymond A. Thomas
3rd Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Legislative Counsel's Office

Chief Legislative Counsel
Allan R. Roger
2nd Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

POLICE SERVICES BRANCH

Assistant Deputy Minister
Robin Bourne
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1751

Policy Division
Director
Geoff Hutt
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1751

Policing Programs Division
Director
Ron J. Boyle
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1751

Coordinated Law Enforcement
Unit (CLEU)
Executive Officer
George F. T. Moore
1190 Melville Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3W1
Tel: 660-4900

Security Programs Division
Director
Lorne M. Newson
525 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Tel: 387-3152

POLICY PLANNING BRANCH

Assistant Deputy
Attorney General
Robert D. Adamson
4th Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Policy and Program
Analysis Division
Special Projects Division
Director
Brian Pollick
4th Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Director
Gary Martin
4th Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

SUPPORT SERVICES BRANCH

Assistant Deputy Minister
Frank A. Rhodes
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-5131

Finance & Administration
Division
Executive Director
Gordon S. Hogg
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4505

Financial Operations
Section
Director
Leslie Holding
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4343

Financial Policy
and Analysis Section
Director
Alan Randell
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4505

Budget Analysis Unit
Manager
Mike Symons
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-4505

Facilities Management
Section
Director
Allan Paul
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1157

Data Services Section
Director
Barry A. Morton
4th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-5281

Information Services
Division
Director
Ken Horodyski
3rd Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1712

Library Services Section
Director
Jane Taylor
4th Floor
609 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 384-4434

Personnel Services Division
Director
Wayne Scale
4th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1891

Office of the
Public Trustee
Clinton W. Foote
Suite 265
800 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C
V6Z 2E5
Tel: 660-4444

REGULATORY SERVICES

B.C. Board of Parole
Chairman
John Konrad
301-10090-152nd Street
Surrey, B.C.
V3R 8X8
Tel: 660-8846

B.C. Coroners Service
Chief Coroner
R. W. Galbraith
2nd Floor, Imperial Square
4595 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 4L9
Tel: 660-7700

B.C. Police Commission
Chairman
Dr. Malcolm Matheson
405-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E6
Tel: 660-2385

B.C. Racing Commission
Chairman
R. Bruce Harvey
Commissioner Secretary
Robert E. Collis
2nd Floor, 4595 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 4L9
Tel: 660-7400

Law Reform Commission
Chairman
A. L. Close
Suite 601 - Chancery Pl.Box 3
865 Hornby St.
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2H4
Tel: 660-2366

Legal Services Society
Executive Director
Jack Olsen
300-1140 W. Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 4G1
Tel: 660-4600

Office of the Fire Commissioner
Fire Commissioner
Gordon R. Anderson
2780 East Broadway Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5M 1Y8
Tel: 660-9000

Order-In-Council Patients
Review Board
Chairman
Neil A. McDiarmid, Q.C.
2nd Floor
93 Sixth Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 2Z4
Tel: 660-8789

Indian Policy and Programs
Assistant Deputy Minister
Robert Exell
202-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2E6
Tel: 660-2430

Land Title Office
Director
J. P. Malcolm McAvity
5th Floor
910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C.
Tel: 387-1903

Film Classification
Division
Director
Mary-Lou McCausland
140 East Eighth Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 1R7
Tel: 660-6821

Appendix E

STATUTES
1985-86

Accounts (Certified General)
Accountants (Chartered)
Accountants (Management)
Age of Majority
Arbitration
Architects
Attorney General

Barristers and Solicitors
Builders Lien

Civil Rights Protection
Company (s. 348)
Condominium (all matters affecting powers and duties of Registrar of Titles)
Constitutional Question
Coroners
Correction
County Boundary
County Court
Court Agent
Court of Appeal
Court Order Enforcement
Court Order Interest
Court Rules
Criminal Injury Compensation
Crown Franchise
Crown Proceeding
Curfew

Disciplinary Authority Protection

Escheat
Estate Administration
Estates of Missing Persons
Evidence
Expropriation

Family Compensation
Family Relations
Federal Courts Jurisdiction

Fire Services
Firearm
Fireworks
Foreign Arbitral Awards
Fort Nelson Indian Reserve Minerals Revenue Sharing
Fraudulent Conveyance
Fraudulent Preference
Frustrated Contract

Good Samaritan

Holiday Shopping Regulation
Homestead
Horse Racing

Indian Cut-off Lands Disputes
Infants
Interpretation

Judicial Review Procedure
Jury
Justice Administration

Land (Settled Estate)
Land (Spouse Protection)
Land Title
Land Title Inquiry
Land Transfer Form
Law and Equity
Law Reform Commission
Legal Services Society
Libel and Slander
Limitation

Motion Picture
Municipal (Part 20)

National Cablevision Limited Transfer of Jurisdiction
Negligence
Notaries

Occupiers Liability
Offence
Ombudsman

Partition of Property
Patients Property
Pawnbrokers
Perpetuity
Police
Power of Appointment
Power of Attorney
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Privacy
Private Investigators and Security Agencies
Probate Recognition
Property Law
Provincial Court
Public Trustee

Queen's Counsel

Regulations

Sales on Consignment
Securities (s. 142)
Sheriff
Small Claim
Statute Revision
Statute Uniformity
Subpoena (Interprovincial)
Supreme Court
Survivorship and Presumption of Death

Trespass
Trust Variation
Trustee
Trustee (Church Property)

Wills (except Part 2)
Wills Variation

Young Offenders (British Columbia)